

SAVE OUR SEAS



WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH!

ACTIVITY 3: SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Lesson Objective

- Learn about the kind of rubbish and litter you might find on the beach.
- Learn how to organise a beach clean.

Introduction What is marine litter?

Marine litter is made up of rubbish that is dropped on the beach, or washed up by the sea:

- Household waste: washing up gloves, plastic bottles, sweet wrappers, cans, cotton buds, condoms and sanitary towels
- Ships' waste: rubbish thrown overboard, engine oil
- Fishing waste: nets, fish boxes
- Industrial waste: chemicals, oil.

Did you know?

Half of all marine litter is plastic. Plastic takes nearly 500 years to break down. If they'd had plastic at the time of Henry VIII, it would still be around today. Off with their heads!

Marine litter can blow around, float on the water surface or sink to the seabed. It can also get caught up around a surfboard leash or a boat propeller.

Sea creatures might eat the plastic. A plastic bag looks like a jellyfish to a dolphin like Duffy – his favourite food. But eating plastic could kill him.

SAS is campaigning on a number of different levels to tackle the torrent of marine litter that washes up on UK beaches every year.

SAS beach cleans can remove litter from a beach for just one day. By the next tide, more litter will be washed up on the beach.

But beach cleans also remind people not to drop litter. Campaigns 'Return To Offender', 'No Butts on the Beach', 'Think Before You Flush' can all help reduce the amount of sewage and marine litter found on UK beaches.

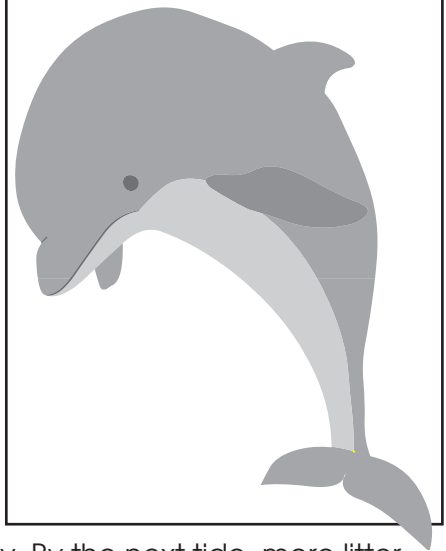
Duffy says,

"5% of all litter found on UK beaches is from cigarette butts. It's the most commonly dropped litter item in the world!

"Cigarette ends can be mistaken for food by marine animals. They have been found in the stomachs of whales, dolphins, sea birds and turtles. There are dangerous chemicals in cigarette butts and they can make us very ill – or even kill us."

Find out more

www.sas.org.uk/campaign/marine_litter/no_butts_on_the_beach.php





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What are SAS doing?

Return to Offender

www.sas.org.uk/campaign/marine_litter/return_to_offender.php

No Butts on the Beach

www.sas.org.uk/campaign/marine_litter/no_butts_on_the_beach.php

Bag It and Bin It

www.bagandbin.org/bag-and-bin-history.php

What can you do?

Reduce the amount of packaging you buy. 80% of household waste is made up of packaging that is only used once and then thrown away. Don't buy over packaged goods.

Re-use items where possible.

Recycle as much as you can.

And never, ever drop litter!

Unfortunately it's not always safe to pick up rubbish from a beach without the proper equipment. Some rubbish can be contaminated with sewage or chemicals and if you touch it, you could get sick. And you must **Never pick up anything sharp, always tell a responsible adult.**

Instead, you could:

- Photograph the rubbish so you can send the information to people
- Ring the Waste Management department at your local council
- Phone the Environment Agency Incident line 0800 807060
- Phone SAS 01872 555950.

Why not adopt a beach near you and help to keep it clean and litter free? Or, if you don't live near a beach, what about doing a beach clean in conjunction with your local watersports shop or club? SAS will advertise it on our website so SAS members in your area can help you.

Find out more

www.adoptabeach.org.uk

Read about the SAS beach clean at Porthtowan in Cornwall

www.sas.org.uk/pr/2007/porthtowan_beach_clean_2.php

Spot the difference!

Crystal Clear and Sandy Bottoms are going surfing. But instead of a lovely, clean beach, they find one covered in sewage and rubbish.

There are 12 differences between these two pictures. How many can you find?

Make a list at the bottom of the page of what you have found.

