



BEACH CLEAN & SORT

These polluters need
a good sorting out



**OCEAN
SCHOOL**
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE



All Ages



40 Mins



Outdoors

Let's get some hands-on experience with ocean pollution. With a good pair of gloves and a keen pair of eyes, we can literally gather data from around the world right on the beach. And by data, we mean of course plastic bottles, fishing nets and chocolate wrappers from the 1980s.

Do

- Put on gloves and grab some bags or buckets to put the rubbish in.
- Go off and explore the beach, collecting rubbish where you find it.
- Set a time limit, then come back together and put your rubbish in your base.

Discuss

- How much rubbish did you find?
- What was the biggest thing you found?
- Was there more rubbish than you expected?
- What was the most common item you found?
- What was the most common material you found?
- What's the weirdest thing you found?

Prepare

- Gloves.
- Bags or buckets.
- Hand sanitiser.

Make your beach clean one in a million. Get all the gear you need and sign up to our Million Mile Clean at beachcleans.org.uk

Learn

- Which man-made objects end up in the ocean.
- Where they can be found.
- The rough level of pollution on a particular beach.

Act

Take lots of pictures as you're cleaning the beach. Get shots of the biggest and weirdest things you find, and share them far and wide using these social hashtags:

**#OCEANSCHOOL**
#OCEANACTIVISTS
5000

pieces of plastic
pollution are estimated
to be found on every
mile of UK beach.

Marine Conservation Society
2016



BEACH SORT

It's time to put ocean pollution in its place. These activities are all about organising our rubbish to give us a better look at the things polluting our beaches. But there's no need to do every one of the activities, just the ones that seem most manageable and useful. Remember, we can use everything we learn to teach the polluters a lesson. So make sure someone's ready to record the results and discussions.

PIE CHART

Do

- Separate your rubbish by what it's made from (plastic, metal, etc).
- Draw a circle in the sand big enough to fit it all in.
- Arrange the materials into a pie chart in the circle.

Discuss

- Why do you think there's so much of the biggest group of materials?
- How could they harm fish and marine animals?

BAR GRAPH

Do

- Arrange the objects into groups, like bottles, plastic bags and fishing gear.
- Turn the groups into a bar chart, showing how much of each group was on the beach.

Discuss

- Why is there so much of the biggest group?
- What can we do to make sure less of it ends up in the ocean?

VENN DIAGRAM

Do

- Draw a big venn diagram with two or more circles in the sand.
- Give each circle a label, like 'Plastic', 'Branded' and 'Reusable'.
- Put the items in the right areas.

Discuss

- How do the objects in different areas affect the ocean and marine life in different ways?

WHAT'S IT MADE OF?

Do

- Draw some big shapes in the sand
- Sort the rubbish by material, putting the plastic in one shape, the glass in another, and so on.

Discuss

- How many materials are there?
- How do you know what each object is made from?
- Which shape has the most rubbish?





BEACH SORT

Know it all

There are loads of interesting (and worrying) facts about ocean rubbish [here](#).

Prepare

- Gloves.
- Hand sanitiser.

Learn

- Observing, measuring, classifying, and hypothesising skills.
- How to record environmental damage and understand and evidence the problem.
- How to be a critical consumer.

Act

- You've organised your rubbish, now make it count.
- Share your findings on your socials, and remember to tag us.
- Do more beach, park, street and river cleans. And make them go further by joining our [Million Mile Clean](#).
- Talk to your family and friends about how we can stop these things getting to the ocean.
- Tell the polluters to sort themselves out by submitting your rubbish to our [Brand Audit](#). Or take it one step further and contact them directly.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

Linear Economy

Do

- Choose an object that's hard to recycle, like a carrier bag.
- Stand together in a line.
- Pass the object down the line and talk about its life (for example, from a factory, to a shop, to a home.)

Circular Economy

Do

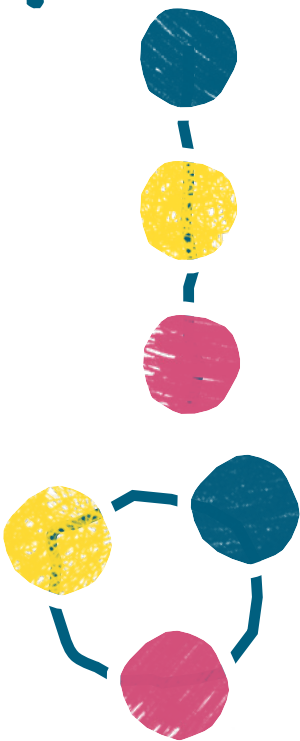
- Choose a reusable object, like a glass bottle.
- Stand together in a circle
- Pass the object around the circle and talk about its life (for example, from a factory, to a shop, to a home, to finally being cleaned and reused.)

Discuss

- What happens when it gets to the end of the line?
- How did it end up on the beach?

Discuss

- How can reusing and recycling things make them last longer and keep them out of the ocean?



A plastic bottle can stay in the ocean for 450 years, slowly breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces but never actually going away.



GET THE MOST FROM OCEAN SCHOOL

Beach Clean & Sort is an **Explore** activity, all about getting active and investigating critical issues.

For a full Ocean School journey, we'd recommend doing a **Connect** exercise first, to help you feel closer to the sea and get things off to a chilled start. And then once you've done the Explore task, finishing with a **Protect** activity to put everything you've learned into action.



Share your Ocean School story here:

 @SurfersAgainstSewage
 @SurfersAgainstSewage
 @SasCampaigns
#OceanSchool #OceanActivists