Together, we can make plastic pollution a thing of the past
This pack contains the instructions for delivering 1-1.5 hour workshops to primary school children about plastic that are in line with the national curriculum. There are four sessions aimed at different age groups; Key stage (KS) 1 lower, KS1 upper, KS2 lower and KS2 upper. They are designed so that the same children could receive all four sessions throughout their time at primary school but also work separately. For delivery each session has a PowerPoint, worksheets and activities. When delivering a session be as engaging as possible, the aim of these sessions is to enthuse and educate children around the issues of plastic pollution.

*Be enthusiastic, be kind and have fun!*

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Key Stage One (Lower)

What to Expect

Children in KS1 (Lower) will be aged 5-6 and in their second year at primary school. They are unlikely to be used to sitting still for long periods of time so try to keep talking between activities as brief as possible. Avoid using long or scientific words, keep language simple and make sure to read out everything that is written down.

Teachers Top Tips

- Spend no more than 10 minutes with the children sat on the carpet
- Have the resources laid out ready
- Make the session as interactive as possible
- Let the children know what is expected of them
- Check they understand what they need to do before you send them off

National Curriculum

According to the national curriculum there are certain skills and things that should be learnt before the end of each Key Stage. For lower Key Stage 1 some of these skills are:

- Identify common animals and basic structures
- Have knowledge about their local environment
- Answer questions about animal's habitats
- Group animals by what they eat
- Name every day materials

Lesson Objectives

1. To be able to describe some of the effects of plastic on animals and the environment.
2. To give an example of how everyone can help to make plastic pollution a thing of the past.
Resources Required for Workshop

For the workshop resources have been produced to aid you in delivering the session. For the lower KS1 workshop the following downloadable resources are required (these will require printing):

- 5x sets of Animal cards*
- 30x What do animals eat worksheet
- 2x Pairs cards*
- 30x Drawing/colouring turtle worksheet
- 1x Recycling bins and items*
- 30x Pledge cards*
- 6x Word Bank
- PowerPoint presentation

*these resources require printing cutting out before the session. Please reuse resources where possible, items such as the cards can be reused by many groups. (All numbers given are based on a class of 30, more worksheets, pledge cards and stickers will be required for a bigger class as the children need 1 each).

You will also require one toy sea creature and some netting for the tangled toy activity, this is not provided.

Word Bank

A word bank provides the key words used throughout the workshop for the class, these should be printed out and placed on each table to help facilitate the learning and spelling of new vocabulary. Some words may already be known and some may be new.

Activity Instructions

Activity 1: Starter - Animal Cards

**Time:** 10 minutes

**PowerPoint slides:** 3-5

The animals card link to the curriculum by getting the children to think about basic animal structures and to group animals by what they eat. It is important in this activity that there are no wrong answers. Encourage the children to discuss their answers within their group

- Explain the activity to the group using the slide
- Split the class into groups of 5 or 6 for this activity
- Give out the cards and ask them to sort the animals into groups
- Once the class has finished ask a couple of groups to explain their animal groups
- Move onto the next slide which shows your groups and explain why you chose them
- Slide 5 will aid discussion in some animals eating plastic
Activity 2: Main 1 - What do animals eat?

**Time:** 10 minutes  
**PowerPoint slides:** 6-9

This activity will build on the previous one, it will also build on the teaching that some animals eat plastic. For this activity each child will have their own worksheet.

- Explain what the children will be doing
- Hand out the worksheet
- Ask if anyone has any questions
- Ask the children to put down their pen/pencil when finished
- When the class is finished get everyone’s attention back on the front
- Go through the correct answers which are in the slides
- Make sure to emphasise that animals shouldn’t eat plastic but some do by accident when reviewing answers

Activity 3: Main 2 – Activity Circus

**Time:** 40 minutes  
**PowerPoint slides:** 11

The activity circus consists of four activities that will be going at the same time, children will rotate between all four. The time given is broken down into ten minutes for each activity, this includes time to move in between. Ensure you leave enough time (at least 3 minutes) for the children to stop the current activity, move to the next one and be clear on what to do.

Activity Circus: Pairs Cards

These cards will build on the fact that animals can mistake plastic for food. A match will consist of one green bordered card and one red bordered to help with the matching. Do not tell this to the children unless they are struggling.

- All the cards should be spread on the table face down
- The children take it in turns to turn two cards over
- If they get a match then they get another turn and keep the matching pair
- If they don’t match it is the next persons turn

Activity Circus: Tangled Toy

The tangled toy highlights the issue of entanglement, which is often in ghost fishing gear. Make the toy as difficult as possible to untangle, the children should also be asked to only use one hand each, this will make it more difficult and make them work as a team.

- Place the tangled toy in front of the children
- Highlight they most only use one hand
- Fastest team wins! Time get each group to be timed
- When they are finished get them to tangle up the toy again for the next group
Activity Circus: Drawing/colouring worksheet

The children can colour in the turtle and complete the picture to show what plastic the turtle may come across in the ocean. This could include it being tangled in fishing net or eating a plastic bag.

If the children have not finished their image by the time they have moved on then they can bring it with them to finish if they complete other activities (for example tangled toy) before it is time to move on.

Activity Circus: Recycling bins

The aim of the recycling bins is to get the children thinking about what materials everyday items are made from and hopefully help them make better choices when it is not possible to avoid or reuse plastic.

- All the bins should be laid out on the table with the items all in one pile
- The children take it in turns to pick an item and put it onto a bin
- Help might be required to read each bin

Activity 4: Plenary - Pledges

**Time:** 10 minutes

**PowerPoint slides:** 14-15

Towards the end of the session get the class thinking about what they could do to reduce the amount of plastic that they use. This could be something at home, school or in a club they belong to. Get all the children to write this on a pledge card. A writing frame has been provided to aid the class in making their pledges. Ask if any children would like to share their pledge with the class.

Presentation

The presentation included contains notes on each slide to help you deliver it, these are a guidance and you can add in as much or as little as you like. You may want to add in a slide after the title slide explaining a bit about what your job is. The timings for each activity are also a suggestion, some groups may work quicker than others, so you can tailor this to each individual group. If you are running out of time you may want to remove the colour/drawing activity from the round-robin and leave the sheet behind for them.

There will be at least one other adult in the room with you (the teacher) and probably a teaching assistant. You can use them to help with activities and checking that the children understand what you expect of them. You could also bring a colleague with you to help with delivery.
Importantly: Enjoy the experience!

If you have any questions about any of the schools resource packs contact us. We would also love to see pictures of the workshops being used and the pledges made. Send any queries or images to plasticsandsustainability@environment-agency.gov.uk and send your pledges to; the Plastics and Sustainability Team, Manley House, Kestrel Way, Exeter, EX2 7LQ.