



DROWNING IN PLASTIC

Plastic in our oceans is a worldwide problem that needs solving.

This session uses fun practical work and discussion to investigate: looking at why, where and what we can do about it.



KS3



Geography & Citizenship



40 Minutes

OBJECTIVES

- Understand why plastic is such a widely used material and that we cannot stop using it
- Understand why plastic builds up in certain places in the oceans
- Understand how plastic enters the oceanic food web and how it is already being ingested by us
- Investigate recycling plastics, those that can and those that can't

OVERVIEW

This workshop begins by discussing plastic, showing how tough and resilient it is by jumping on coke bottles and explaining how it does not break down properly but just breaks up into smaller and smaller tough bits.

The currents in the oceans collect plastic waste in certain areas, because it floats. These gyres can be called 'garbage patches'. Using visuals and the globe, the way the plastic collects into a plastic 'soup' is explained.

Then the recycling of plastic is explored, using examples of everyday plastic that can be recycled, can't be recycled and is biodegradable. The recycling symbol and numbers are explained.

With pictures to help, the effects of plastic on animals in the sea is discussed. Please note that this does include positive uses as well as negative. Finally, some current ideas about reducing our usage of plastic and cleaning up our oceans are given. The different ways the Deep is trying to reduce plastic use are included.