

# Beach detectives

45 - 60 mins



## Activity guide:

### Equipment required:

- Hula hoops
- Gloves
- Bin bags
- Litter pickers (optional)

### **At the beach:**

1. Lay the hula hoops out on the beach.
2. Divide the class into groups. Go through safety briefing - see below for some points to cover:
  - Keep in sight of the adults at all times
  - Be aware of the tide changing
  - Always wear gloves
  - Do not pick up broken glass, needles or anything you are not sure of
3. Pupils collect as much litter as they can, then bring it back to the hula hoop area and sort it into different groups, by type e.g. bottles, bags, fishing equipment.
4. These groups are then used to start a discussion about what everything is, how it got into the sea and what could be done to improve the situation.
5. There is a sheet included in this pack with a few examples of what you might find and some interesting information about the items to help with the discussion.

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## Activity guide:

Below are some facts about the things on the beach clean to help get your discussions started.

		
<p><b>Nurdles</b> - nurdles are small pellets of plastic. It is the raw material that companies use to manufacture plastic goods. They end up on beaches when containers are lost overboard whilst being shipped across the globe and washed downstream from industrial sites into the sea.</p>	<p><b>Wet wipes and sanitary products</b> - these are flushed down the toilet, but the majority are made of plastic and do not biodegrade.</p>	<p><b>Fishing litter</b> - most nets, boxes, tags, floats and lines used in the fishing industry are made of plastic. They can end up discarded in the sea where they could continue to capture marine life by accident - this is called ghost fishing. Look out for lobster tags from the USA and Canada, you can record the tag numbers and send them to the Marine Conservation Society.</p>
		
<p><b>Balloons</b> - released accidentally or for charity events and memorials, they eventually burst and usually end up in the sea where they do not break down and are often mistaken for food.</p>	<p><b>Disposable BBQ and food packaging</b> - often left on the beach by holiday makers.</p>	<p><b>Plastic packaging</b> - sometimes you can find plastic packaging with old designs because the litter has been floating around the ocean for years and years.</p>