



Beach Detectives

Equipment required

- Something to group objects (e.g. hula hoops)
- Gloves
- Bin bags
- Litter pickers (optional)

At the beach

1. 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
 - Wear gloves and do not pick up broken glass, needles or anything unfamiliar
2. Support the learners to create a sorting area on the beach. Ask learners to collect as much litter as they can, then bring it back to the sorting area and organise into different groups, by type e.g. bottles, bags and fishing equipment.
3. Discuss what everything is, how it got into the sea and solutions to improve the situation.
See below examples of what you might find to help with the discussion.



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.



Wet wipes and sanitary products are flushed down the toilet, but the majority are made of plastic and do not biodegrade.



Most fishing litter are made of plastic. They can end up discarded where they could continue to capture marine life (ghost fishing). Look out for lobster tags from the USA and Canada, record the tag numbers and send them to the Marine Conservation Society.



Balloons released accidentally or for charity events and memorials eventually burst and usually end up in the sea where they do not break down and are often mistaken for food.



Disposable BBQ / food packaging are often left on the beach.



Plastic packaging - sometimes you can find plastic packaging with old designs because the litter has been floating around the ocean for years and years.