

## Life Below Water - tackling plastic pollution.



Why is it important for us to know about plastic pollution?

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/sZW2ByM623g>

### The facts about plastic pollution:

- ✚ 8 million tonnes of plastic waste are dumped into our oceans every year. That's the same as a rubbish truck emptying its load every minute!
- ✚ Our seas supply half the oxygen we breathe
- ✚ Our seas provide food and jobs for more than 1 billion people.
- ✚ When plastic is thrown in water it chokes our ponds, rivers and oceans and harms the sea life.
- ✚ The bacteria in the stomachs of the sea life cannot break the plastic up into smaller pieces.
- ✚ Most plastics are strong, long-lasting, and lightweight so they resist damage by water, heat, chemicals, and electricity.
- ✚ Nearly every bit of plastic that has ever been made and thrown away still exists somewhere in the world today - it takes 500-1,000 years for plastic to breakdown or degrade.
- ✚ Plastic pollution can now be found on every beach in the world, even on tropical islands where no humans live. And has even been found way up in the Arctic.
- ✚ A million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute - that's a lot of bottles!

What can you do to help?

Remember the three R's **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,**



Fun ways to recycle:

1. Make a musical instrument out of clean rubbish:  
Use clean plastic rubbish to make their own instruments.

#### Mini can drums:

Use clean cans and stretch balloons or cling film across the top, and decorate.



#### Singing Straws

Cut different lengths of straws, tape together and blow across the top to make different tones



#### Pringles Can Drums

Tape empty pringle or similar tubes together



How about inventing your own instrument!!

2. Kitchen audit: Go into your kitchen cupboards and sort everything into the type of material, plastics, cardboard, aluminium, etc. Next pick out the items that can be recycled. How do you know it can be recycled? Can you find any of these symbols?



3. Make a boat out of plastic waste. Using plastic that you might otherwise throw away, make a small plastic raft or boat. Put it in the bath or a large bowl to discover if it floats or sinks. Here are some ideas but can you think of your own?



4. Make jewellery from rubbish and put on a fashion show.

Upcycling—or “making new objects, etc. out of old or used things or waste material”—is one of the best fashion trends for the environment. Make some stylish fashion accessories out of plastic waste? Then put on a fashion show with your new creations!



You will need a plastic bottle, material (an old t shirt would be fine) and strong glue. Carefully, cut the top and bottom off your bottle.

Cover the bottle with glue and wrap your material around it.  
Leave to dry.  
When dry carefully cut into the width of bracelet you would like.

### Necklace craft:



You will need:

Plastic lids, thin cord, felt tips or marker pens, stickers if you have some.

Gather all of your plastic lids and make sure that they are clean and dry.

Draw on your designs with your felt pens.

When your lids are completely dry, you can add the stickers to your lids if you are using them.

Ask an adult to help with this: use a a nail to poke a hole in the lids

Finish off your necklace by stringing your satin jewellery cord through the holes and tying a knot to secure the lids.

