



Learning Activities

Ocean Pollution



Ocean Currents

How does trash find its way around the ocean and where does it end up?

More specifically how does trash from your area end up in the ocean and where does it go?

To understand better how trash moves around and where it can end up, let's research how trash moves along rivers and around the ocean.

1. Start by thinking about how trash from your area could end up in a river or ocean. Imagine it has rained heavily and all the trash in the street is being washed away. Where does it go?
2. Investigate whether you have drains or stormwater drains in your area, where does it end up?
3. If your trash ends up in a river system, research how the river flows and where does it go? What ocean does it end up in or is trash collected in barriers before it reaches the ocean?
4. If your trash ends up in the ocean, research the ocean currents and how they move.
5. Investigate whether the currents could flow in different directions, could it move into another current, be pushed onshore or into a gyre.
6. Create a map that shows your research and where your trash flows along and the different ways it could move around the ocean and where it would end up.

Some of the countries infamous for, for polluting the ocean with plastic, are India, China, Indonesia and Thailand.

Take a look at the ocean currents around these countries and see if you can identify where plastic trash from these countries could end up. How far does it travel?

Why do you think it is such a problem in these countries?

What do you think could be done to help tackle the issue of plastic pollution?

Creating solutions

Want to do more? Feeling innovative and creative?

If you want to do more to help the ocean, why not help create new ways to:

- Remove plastic or another type of pollution from the ocean.
- Think of ways to help stop pollution reaching the ocean, ways to trap it in stormwater systems or filtered from drains.
- Reduce the amount of plastic being used and create alternative packaging solutions that don't harm the ocean or marine wildlife.