

LEVEL 1 – INSPIRE (Y5 – 6)



What to expect from Level 1 – Inspire

During this level, children will learn about where our plastic products come from, different types of plastic and why it's so important to become Plastic Clever!

You'll take part in a litter pick to find out how plastic pollution is impacting your local environment as well as creating a space to help your whole school get engaged and up to date on your Plastic Clever journey.

You'll also share your journey and mission with the Plastic Clever Schools using your unique portal.

Lesson Outline

Lesson 1 – The Impact of Marine Plastic Pollution

In this lesson, children will be introduced to Kids Against Plastic and the Plastic Clever Schools initiative. The aim of this session is to inspire children to make a change by sharing information with them regarding plastic waste and how it is harming our marine life, including microplastics.

Lesson 2 – The Different Types of Plastics

In this lesson, children will be introduced to the seven different types of plastics. They will learn to recognise which plastics a product is made from and how to identify them using the plastic labels. As part of this lesson, children will also take part in a litter pick and record their findings with Plastic Clever Schools.

Lesson 3 – Where does plastic come from and where does it go?

In this lesson, children will learn all about how plastic is made, using crude oil, and will be introduced to the journey of single-use plastics from production to our waterways. They will also develop their knowledge of how plastic pollutes our environment.

Lesson 4 – Why is Plastic So Fantastic?

In this lesson, children will be introduced to the different uses of plastic and how it is essential in many scientific endeavours such as medical treatment and space exploration.

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Lesson 1 – The Impact of Marine Plastic Pollution

Lesson input

Use the PowerPoint to go through the information below.

Introduce the Plastic Clever Schools initiative to the class and explain how they have an important role in this movement. Visit the website and watch the video introducing Amy & Ella and Kids Against Plastic. <https://youtu.be/yFyObLGOfW8>

The aim of the Plastic Clever Schools is to help schools ~~meet~~ SMASH the Government's 2022 plastic target, if not by the end of December 2021, then as is realistically possible after.

Discuss what the children already know about plastic and gauge their understanding of plastic and its impact on the environment.

Look at the impact of marine plastic pollution:

- Marine animals being entangled in nets
- Beach plastic
- Marine animals eating plastic
- Microplastics being eaten by smaller sea creatures

Look at and discuss the impact that glitter has on marine life.

Activity

Children are to use their knowledge from the session to write a newspaper article calling for glitter to be banned in schools and supermarkets.

Newspaper article template available if you wish to use it.

Additional Activity:

Children are to study one of three case studies outlining how the albatross, green turtle and zooplankton have been found to be threatened by different types of plastic pollution.

Resources

- Common Seas – where do microbes come from?
- Plastic Pollution Case Studies
- Newspaper article template
- Common Seas – How long does plastic take to degrade in the ocean

Book recommendations

- What a Waste – Jess French

Plastic Clever Schools Actions:

- Photo – Upload a photo of your Plastic Clever Schools assembly to your [profile](#) delivered by the students to other classes on plastic pollution, its impact on animals and the planet and how you are going to become a Plastic Clever School.

Assembly template available [here](#).

Lesson 2 – The different types of plastic

Lesson input

Share a range of different plastic objects / containers with the class.

- What can you tell me about these plastic objects?
- What is the same / different?
- Is all plastic the same?

Use the PowerPoint to go through the information below.

Introduce the different types of plastic. Plastic is not just one product as it can come in many different forms. These different types of plastics are useful in different ways.

Introduce the different types of single-use plastics (Essential, Avoidable and Hard-to-Replace)

Discuss the different uses for plastic in schools.

Additional activity to achieve Level 1:

Don't forget to arrange a litter pick in the local area. Share your evidence with KAP and log your litter pick using the KAP app. There is also a litter picking record sheet available to use.

Activity

Children are to investigate the different types of plastic in school, categorising objects into the seven different types of plastic. Activity Sheet available to use.

Group discussion: Children are to discuss the different uses of plastic within their school. Can they categorise them into Essential, Avoidable and Hard-to-Replace?

Homework suggestion

Children can make a list of the items they find around their homes that are made of plastic. Can they find an example of each type of plastic? (Use Common Seas Homework Plastic Investigator Sheet).

Resources

- Plastic label images
- Types of plastic info page
- Amy & Ella's Guide to litter picking
- Litter picking record sheet
- Types of Plastic Activity Sheet
- Common Seas Homework - Plastic Investigator Record Sheet

Book recommendations

- A planet Full of Plastic – Neal Layton

Plastic Clever Schools Actions:

- Photo – Upload a photo of what you found on your plastic search.
- Photo – Upload a photo of your litter pick event to your [profile](#) (please remember to log the litter collected on the [KAP map/app](#)).

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Lesson 3 – Where does plastic come from and where does it go?

Lesson input

Show children a range of plastic objects and discuss the questions below:

- Where does plastic come from?
- What is it made from?
- How is it made?
- What happens to it when it is no longer needed?

Use the PowerPoint to discuss the information below:

- The life cycle of a plastic bottle.
- How plastic is made.
- How plastic is recycled.
- What happens to our plastic?

Activity Suggestions

Children are to map out the journey of a plastic bottle from oil rig to one of the following:

- Landfill
- Waterways
- A recycling factory.

Children can use the activity sheet or drawing their own road map.

Additional activity:

Children are to create a piece of artwork / drawing to depict what oceans could look like in 2050 with more plastic than fish in them.

Resources

- From Land to Sea Sheet
- Journey of a plastic bottle activity sheet

Book recommendations

- The Tale of a Toothbrush – M G Leonard
- A planet Full of Plastic – Neal Layton
- Someone Swallowed Stanley – Sarah Roberts

Plastic Clever Schools Actions:

- Photo – Upload photos of your work to your [profile](#).

Lesson 4 – Why is plastic so fantastic?

Lesson input

Use the PowerPoint to discuss and share information explaining why plastic is essential in certain aspects of life.

Discuss the features of plastic that makes it so versatile and essential in certain areas of life.

Why is plastic so fantastic?

In science – Plastic is currently essential in medical science due to efficiency and hygiene.

Space exploration – Over the years, plastic has helped to advance space exploration. From helmets to seating, plastic has been a durable, lightweight material helping astronauts to explore space.

Sports – Plastic is used in many different sports for equipment as well as safety e.g. helmets, mouth guards, elbow pads etc.

Electronics – Plastic is essential in electronics due to its scientific properties as well as being lightweight and mouldability.

Activity

In groups or pairs, children are to discuss / write down the pros and cons of plastic, using their knowledge from previous lessons.

Children are to plan and write a balanced argument for the use of plastic.

Resources

- Pros and cons of plastic
- Features of a Balanced Argument

Book recommendations

Plastic Clever Schools Actions:

- Video – Upload a short video to your [profile](#) of pupils explaining why you are becoming a Plastic Clever School.
- Photo – Upload a photo of an example balanced argument to your [profile](#).