

Single Use Plastic (SUP) Sorting Activity

Created by DEED & Wimborne War on Waste



Key Stages 1 & 2

Through this activity pupils will be encouraged to rethink their use of SUP
The PPT slides can be used alongside this activity

Learning Outcomes:

Pupils will develop their understanding of Single Use Plastic
Pupils will feel more empowered to be able to rethink and make small changes to reduce their use of SUP – simple swaps!



'Single-use' was coined 2018's word of the year – and it's not hard to see why after we collectively became aware of the devastating impact single-use plastic can have watching the BBC's Blue Planet II and Drowning in Plastic. 50% of all plastic is made for single use items, those which are used once and then thrown 'away' forever.

So, what can we use instead? Items that are reusable, refillable and reduce our need to buy more.

Using the PPT slides as an introduction to the issues around plastic, especially SUP, you can now ask pupils to get into groups of 5, and together sort their bags/bins of rubbish into 2 piles:

1. Those that are Single Use Plastic items - things you'd use only once and then throw 'away'
2. The alternatives – on the other pile, those that are reusable/refillable/non-plastic items.

Some items may be discussed in more depth, e.g. pan scourers may be used many times, but when they are finished with they can only be thrown away, and as they contain plastic they can't be recycled. A cotton dish cloth however, can be reused many times, and once it is finished with it can be recycled with textiles or placed in a compost heap to degrade.

Single Use Plastic Examples

Balloon
Lolly stick
Plastic Straw
Plastic Cotton bud
Disposable water bottle
School milk carton (and straw/wrapper)
Plastic bag
Tea Bag

Plastic Toothbrush
Plastic milk bottle
Flimsy plastic cutlery
Paper or plastic plate
Cling film for sandwiches
Sandwich packet/bag
Glitter
Plastic Toy (kinder surprise egg)

Pens / biro
Food packaging like plastic fruit tray with holes
Shampoo bottle
Pan scouring sponge/pad
Disposable gloves
Pump soap dispenser
Disposable plastic beaker

Non Plastic / Reusable Examples

Pom pom, knitted / fabric bunting
Paper stick, or unwrapped lolly
Metal straw
Paper stick
Reusable metal or plastic bottle
Refillable glass milk bottle or large plastic milk carton and reusable cup
Cotton bag / basket

Plastic free tea bag / loose tea
Bamboo toothbrush
Glass milk bottle
Stainless steel cutlery
China plate
Beeswax wrap / foil wrappers
Sandwich box/tiffen tin
Food decorations/hole punches

Wooden toy
Pencil
Reusable plastic tub and lid
Shampoo bar
Cotton dish Cloth
Strong reusable gloves
Bar of soap
Reusable plastic or glass beaker

Once each group has sorted their bag of rubbish into 2 piles ask them to choose 1 or 2 things they want to talk more about or share with the rest of the class.

In turn, ask them up to the front to share what they have chosen and why? Are there any they don't know what they are?

All the items in the SUP pile can be swapped for reusable items which are better for the environment - you can choose to reuse and do your bit!

Click Here to find about the Indian Lunchbox: Tiffin Tin



Click Here to find about Bees Wax Wraps



You can borrow resources from DEED, but if you want your own then try:
<https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com>
or <https://www.savesomegreen.co.uk>
or <https://andkeep.com>

The Starfish Story

Original Story by Loren Eiseley

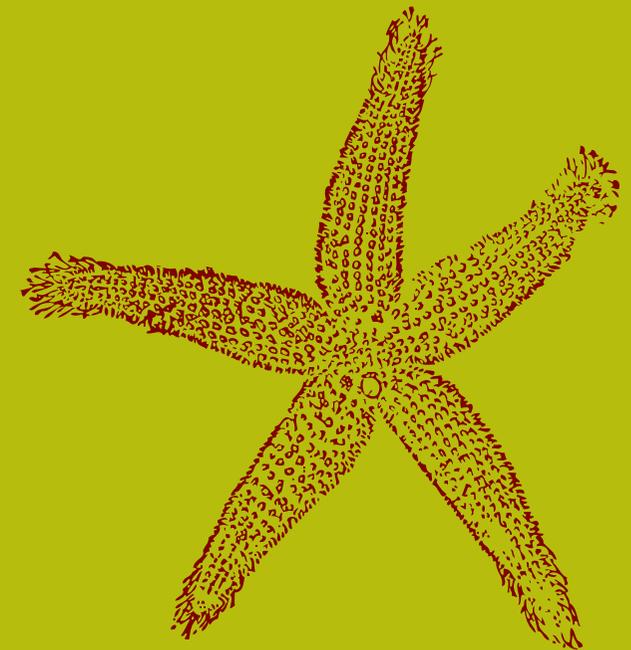
One day a man was walking along the beach, when he noticed a boy hurriedly picking up and gently throwing things into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "Young man, what are you doing?"

The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die"

The man laughed to himself and said, "Don't you realise there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make any difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, "I made a difference to that one"



Single Use Plastic



Reusable / Non Plastic

