

# **Community Pack**

# Solomon Islands

Level 1

3 lessons about marine litter.



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

203

Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture

Science





# Lesson 1: What is marine litter?

This lesson explains why marine litter is a problem and bad for the environment.

Marine litter is bad for the environment. It lasts a long time in the environment because it is made by people or machines. It could be things which are thrown away or lost on a beach or in the sea.

How does it get there? It comes from humans. We use something and throw it away and unless it goes to landfill, which is a big hole in the ground, or is recycled, it could end up in the sea. It comes from rivers or sewage or storm outfalls. It can also end up in the sea by being blown by winds or being thrown straight into the sea. Marine litter is found all over the world and causes lots of problems.

Sometimes animals think litter is food and eat it and it may make them sick and they could die. It can also destroy their homes in the sea, or they can get trapped in it. Lots of marine litter is made of plastic. With the sun shining on it and the action of the waves after time it breaks down into tiny pieces called microplastics. Fish might eat these tiny pieces and then they might enter our body when we eat the fish.

This lesson will introduce marine litter and the difference between natural and machine made rubbish.

# **Additional Resources**

- <u>Two Minutes on Oceans w/ Jim Toomey:</u> <u>Marine Litter</u>
- National Geographic- Kids Take Action Against Ocean Plastic
- It's Okay to be Smart- How Much Plastic is in the Ocean?
- Ocean Heroes: 5 Gyres Problem With <u>Plastics</u>

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• Trash vortex (Artistic film)

Marine litter is a big problem for me and my friends!

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# **Marine Litter Factsheet**

**Marine Litter** is any item that humans have thrown away that ends up in on our beaches, rivers, seas or oceans.

# **Plastics**

1. Plastic is the most common type of marine litter and includes a wide range of materials. Plastic bottles, food wrappers and lost fishing gear are among the most common items found around the world. In the sea, plastics break down into small pieces called microplastics.



# Glass

2. Glass is the second most common material found on beaches. It mostly comes from bottles.

# **Metal**

3. Aluminium drinks cans and other metal objects are other common items found on the beach and in our seas.



# Marine Litter can cause serious damage to marine life!

Animals can mistake litter for food



They can become entangled in marine litter



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3 CLiP Community Pack | Level 1 | Solomon Islands

Marine litter can cause damage to animals' homes



Marine litter can move animals all around the world to places they might not belong.



© Matt Ecklund

# **Activity: What are things made of?**

This lesson will teach the difference between machine made and natural items. Natural items will become one with the earth and create new soil but machinemade items will take a long time to disappear.

# You will need:

- A variety of materials found from around the school/ community centre. These should include a mix of manmade and natural items, hard and soft, flexible and stiff.
- Pencils and Paper

# **Instructions:**

In turn, select each object and use your senses to describe the item. Where did it come from? Is it found in the natural environment or is it machine made? How long do you think this item will take to disappear (use the graph below to get some hints!)?



# Worksheet

What will happen to the item over time?		
Is the item machine-made or natural?		
Item description		

# How many pieces of marine litter can you find?



Worksheet

# Lesson 2: Marine Litter in the Solomon Islands

# Explore marine litter in the Pacific with a field trip and a beach clean.

Beach cleans are a great way to get students to notice the marine litter on local beaches. Recording the type and number of litter items found can also be used in national and global programmes to help understand where the litter comes from. There are lots of recording platforms that you can add your information to and more information on beach cleans is available on the internet.

Please make sure that you have carried out health and safety risk assessments to carry out this activity- bring lots of drinks, find some shade and try not to carry out this activity at midday. Carry out a quick survey of the beach beforehand to make sure that there are no hidden dangers such as sharp objects.

# **Resources**

- <u>https://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/</u> <u>organisers</u>
- <u>https://www.ospar.org/ospar-data/10-02e\_beachlitter%20guideline\_english%20</u> only.pdf



# Activity: Beach clean and sorting exercise

The aim of this exercise is to get students out and about to a local beach to see marine litter for themselves and collect and record the types of litter that they find.

# You will need:

- Beach
- Notebooks and pencils
- Completed Health and Safety Risk
  Assessment

# **Instructions:**

Select your beach in advance and make sure that you ask the land owner. Check the tide times and select a time and date for 2 hours or more after high tide and not when the tide is coming in.

At the beach, select a 100m stretch of beach and mark out the area to clean. This should run from the strandline (the high-tide mark where you often get many shells and where the sand changes colour) to the back of the beach where plant: Organise your community in groups and get them to pick up and record all the marine litter they find. Create different groups of litter based on what the items are made of. The table on the following page can be used if needed. This can be done in the classroom beforehand.

Once finished, make sure you throw away the rubbish in the best way possible and bring clean rubbish from the beach back for other activities and lesson 3.

Collect and add together all the records from the groups. Think about your findings, is this what you thought you'd find? What was the item you found the most often? Is this item something that you use everyday?



© Marine Conservation Society

# What did you find on the beach?

# See if you can recreate the CLiP crew from some of the litter you found at the beach today!



# Lesson 3: What can we do? What are the solutions?

This lesson will help explore solutions to marine litter and help us understand how our actions can help.

It is important that we all try to reduce (make less rubbish) to help to stop the litter in our country from ending up on beaches or entering the sea. In the first lesson, we learnt the difference between natural and machine-made materials. Years ago, people would drop their rubbish on the ground, but they were using natural materials like leaves and coconut husks that over time would break down and become one with the soil. Materials we use these days are mostly machinemade, which can last a really long time, so we must put these items in the bin. Plastic can take up to 1000 years to disappear!

There are three actions that people can do to help reduce the amount of plastic that ends up on beaches or in the sea: Reduce, Re-use and Recycle. Start the lesson by exploring these ideas:

# **Reduce:**

You can reduce the number of single-use items that you use. Simple ways to do this are:

•bring a reusable bag or basket to the shop

•bring water from home in a reusable water bottle

don't use plastic straws

# **Reuse:**

There are many ways that you can use things that you throw away- can you think of someone else that would be able to use it? Can you find another way to use an item?

# **Recycle:**

Many of the items that end up in our landfill sites (big holes where we bury rubbish) can be remade into other items. Check with your local area which items can be sent for recycling and make sure to separate these from your rubbish.

# **Resources**

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle lesson ideas
- <u>Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, to enjoy a</u> <u>better life</u>
- The Three R's for Kids

# Remember the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!



# Activity: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle game

The aim of this activity is to create awareness of the three ways that they can make easy changes to help combat marine litter by implementing the three R's-Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

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# You will need:

• A variety of cleaned marine litter items collected from Lesson 2

# **Instructions:**

Make three piles and in turn, allow each person to think whether they can use less (reduce), use for something else (re-use) or recycle the items.

> Wow, what a mess! I don't want all this in my home!

# Help Salome find the recycling centre!





**Recycling centre**