

How can we reuse plastic?

Scout explores reusing plastic. Put plastic waste to good use by reusing it to make art!

Key Question

Key Stage 1:

What are the features of your river animal?

Key Stage 2:

Why is it good to recycle and reuse plastics?

Activity

Plastic art

1. Students should conduct a plastics audit of the school, they can collect all the plastic and recycling from each classroom, the canteen etc.
2. Place all the collected materials in the middle of the classroom
3. Ask students to design an animal whose habitat is a river using the recycled materials.
4. Students should draw it out on paper first, labelling the different components e.g., feet made of bottle caps and a tail made of a straw



Equipment:

- Variety of different recycling and waste materials (we recommend plastic bottles of different sizes, bottle caps, toilet rolls, straws)
- Glue sticks
- Glue gun (supervised)
- Scissors
- Optional additional materials – string, googly eyes



Top Tip:



- Hot glue guns are useful for sticking certain materials together. Make sure an adult can help with this.
- Encourage students to use their imaginations.



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The
Rivers
Trust

Key Points:

Plastics are often found in rivers which can harm animals and pollute the environment.



Apply to different learners:

More support:

- Provide images of river animals for students to use as inspiration or provide an example of a plastic animal
- Discuss the adaptations and characteristics of river animals first

Challenge:

- Ask students to think about what their animal would specifically like about a river habitat. Would it like having access to fresh water to drink? Would it make a den or hole near the side of the river? Would it live underwater?
- Look at the different materials used in the animals; can they be recycled?

More questions to ask:

1. Why are plastic audits a good way to track plastic use?
2. What other ways can you think of to reuse plastics?
3. Why is recycling good for rivers?
4. Is there just too much plastic to begin with?

Further Resources:

For more activities, worksheets and lessons, visit theriverstrust.org by scanning Scouts QR code!

With thanks to:



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Other activities you could try:

1. Litter Timeline game
2. Microplastics washing machine activity

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