

Litter binners

Background

Finding litter on the beach is rubbish! Empty bottles, dirty crisp packets, thrown away plastic bags not only spoil our enjoyment of the beach, they are also harmful to animals and marine life. The litter found on our beaches and in the sea comes from lots of different sources:

- Deliberately left on the beach or thrown into seas and rivers by people
- Carried to the sea from rivers
- Storm drains overflowing into the sea
- Rain water running off the land and carrying them
- Blown into the sea by the wind
- Accidentally dropped in the sea (off ships etc.)

Aims

- Children understand how litter affects the marine environment
- Children learn what litter you find on the beach and how it got there
- Children know how important it is to put litter in the bin or better still, recycle it
- Children take the message home and when they're out and about they make sure they and their family pledge to always put their waste in the correct bin

Curriculum links

- **Science** what happens to materials that are left on the beach or in the water. How long they take to biodegrade, what doesn't biodegrade.
- **Maths / IT** analysing data and interpreting what it means. Presenting data to others
- **Citizenship** take the messages home and look after local places when out and about by putting rubbish in the bin or taking it home and putting it in the bin
- **Creative / Art** draw a picture of a beach with and without litter and write about which you prefer and why.

What's that?

Ask the children to imagine the last time they visited a beach or show them the picture of the beach below. Discuss what they would expect to find and do at the beach.

Discuss how people can have a positive or negative impact on the beach. How can people doing the following activities look after the beach and water?:

- at home
- walking the dog
- riding a horse
- having a picnic



Ask the children to draw picture of what they learnt – what it means to LOVEmyBEACH. Get children to draw their favourite beach ☺!

Quick quiz: what percentage of marine litter comes from the land?

Answer: 80%

Here are some of the things we have found on the beach. Which are natural and which are manmade? How do you think each item got on the beach? Tick the ones that belong on the beach and cross the ones that shouldn't be on the beach...



LOVEmyBEACH rules!

In groups ask the children to discuss how you should act when at the beach and working together draw up 'LOVEmyBEACH rules' which could be put up at the entrance to a beach to remind people how they should treat their beach when they visit.

Litter pickers

Beach volunteers recorded the litter found on Rossall Point Beach over 3 months, August, September and October. The results below show what they found.

	August	September	October	Total
Plastic bags	21	16	19	56
Plastic bottles	15	67	22	104
Plastic bottle tops	53	37	73	163
Rope & string	113	65	85	263
Crisp & sweet packets	120	28	48	196
Straws & food packaging	24	19	57	100
Unidentifiable plastic pieces	70	81	208	359
Baby wipes & hand wipes	17	31	26	74
Polystyrene pieces	21	25	53	99
Balloons	48	22	7	77

Draw a bar chart to show the total top 10 items found on the beach. Which month had the most litter?



More great stuff...

Beach clean events: www.lovemybeach.org/events