

Age 12+

Duration

45
mins

Location

INDOORS

THE PLUNGE

DID YOU KNOW?

Organic materials like wood, food and paper get broken down or biodegraded by bacteria. Petroleum-based plastics like PET bottles break down by photodegradation (in other words sunlight) which weakens the bonds holding the long molecular chain together. This is why plastic breaks into tiny parts but never disappears completely!

TASK: To make the longest possible jetty from litter capable of supporting a lightweight object.

RESOURCES: Sellotape | Scissors | A box of clean, dry litter e.g. paper, cardboard, plastic bottles | Tape measure or ruler | A lightweight object such as an empty can or water bottle | The Green Blue's 'How Degrading!' poster | Quiz Questions.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Put the participants into teams and explain the activity to them.
2. Provide each team with two items of litter. Use the quiz questions along with your own boating questions to get the teams to win additional items of litter!
3. The first team to stand up and salute after a question has been read out in full gets to answer the question and win an item of litter if correct. If they answer incorrectly provide the answer and move on to the next question.
4. Once all litter has been distributed teams can start building.
5. Give teams 10 minutes to design and create a jetty using their litter and a 20cm strip of sellotape.
6. The team with the longest jetty that can support a lightweight object is the winner!
7. Discuss with the group the impact of marine litter, where it comes from and how boating can prevent anything going overboard.
8. Show the group The Green Blue's 'How Degrading!' poster and ask participants if they are surprised at how long items take to break down in the water.
9. At the end of the activity all litter must be placed in recycling bins or put back into a scrap box to be used again.

