

SINNER OR BINNER?

LESSON PLAN KS3 & 4

OBJECTIVES

- To identify hidden plastic in every day items
- To understand how to dispose of items containing hidden plastic
- To identify eco-friendly sanitary & feminine hygiene products
- To commit to being a binner, not a sinner

RESOURCES

- Unused:
 - Wet wipes
 - Cotton buds
 - Tampons
 - Sanitary towels
 - Nappies
 - Toilet roll
 - Teabags
- Toothpaste (containing microbeads)
- Face wash (containing microbeads)
- Plastic bottles
- Water
- A4 print outs of images below:



Source:

<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/YJqLxB19CRM/maxresdefault.jpg>



Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/content/dam/photography/PROOF/2017/September/seahorse-indonesia-trash/hofman-seahorse-wpy.jpg>



Source: https://www.greenpeace.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GPOSTPYWJ_Web_size.jpg

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SESSION

- Show the pupils the three images above and ask them to describe what is happening in them. Tell the class about how plastic doesn't biodegrade, which leads to plastic pollution. Talk about the impact this has on the environment and wildlife.
- Ask the class to suggest items that are made out of plastic. Introduce the idea of hidden plastic and give some examples - teabags, microbeads in toothpaste and facial washes. Get the pupils to feel the consistency of toothpaste and face washes containing microbeads so that they can identify them.
- Talk to them about other common items that contain hidden plastic: wet wipes, tampons, nappies. Explain where the plastic is contained in these items. Explain how these items are often flushed down the toilet. Give the class tampons, wet wipes and nappies to feel, pull and test the strength of the items.
- Divide the class into groups and give each group a bottle of water. Put toilet roll in one bottle, tampons in another and wet wipes in another. Get the groups to shake the bottles to simulate a toilet flush for 30 seconds. See what happens to the items and which disintegrate.
- Discuss the appropriate ways to dispose of items that contain hidden plastic - bin them, don't flush them.
- Discuss how to identify plastics on the packaging of products and what to look out for if you don't want to use items that contain hidden plastics. List the technical names for the most common types of plastic e.g. polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), nylon.
- Discuss eco-friendly alternatives to these items that contain hidden plastic - so that they don't end up at landfill sites. How many of the class would like to change their habits and use eco-friendly alternatives?
- Ask the class to put their hands up if they are now going to be a sinner. Ask to the class to put their hands up if they're now going to be a binner.