

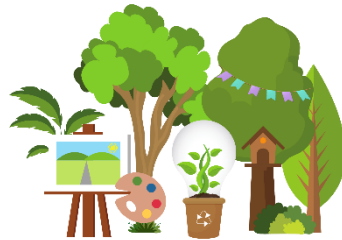
## Workshop 6: Trash Treasures

Ages  
12-15

### LEAF Theme(s)



ECOSYSTEMS, FORESTS & WATER



ECOSYSTEMS, FORESTS & INNOVATION

### BioBeo Theme(s)



### Teacher Instructions

Gain insight into the concept of the plastic soup (Attachment 1: Oceans and Plastic Soup) and develop creative thinking skills to brainstorm effective ways to address this environmental issue. Explore actionable steps that everyone can take to minimize plastic usage and understand the broader impact of plastic waste on ecosystems, particularly in the sea. Internalize the central question: "Can I still make something out of the plastic waste?" Embrace the mindset of a circular economy by focusing on the principles of reuse, reduce, and recycle when dealing with plastic waste. This holistic approach aims to encourage sustainable practices and contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment.

This activity is a great example of Step 4: Function & Flourish of the LEAF Pedagogy!

4 FUNCTION & FLOURISH



### Learning Objectives

- At the end of the workshop, students know about the world's waters and its importance.
- At the end of the workshop, students have awareness about the plastic soup, its origins, and the environmental and social consequences.
- At the end of the workshop, students are encouraged to evaluate their own habits and their impact on the plastic waste issue.
- At the end of the workshop, students have a conscious lookout on a circular economy: reuse, reduce and recycle.

## Step-by-step guide

Preparations before the start of the project week/workshop:

- Step 1** Have a look around the school for unused materials such as old buttons, (bottle)caps, shells, pebbles, etc., in case the students run short of plastic waste material during the workshop.
- Step 2** If you wish to expand the workshop, old photo frames can be used to display the mosaic pieces beautifully. They can be painted as well according to individual preferences, but this too is optional.
- Step 3** Gather cardboard boxes on which the mosaic pieces will be created, scissors, glue, and rulers.
- Step 4** Arrange the tables in the classroom in such a way that multiple stations are formed, with the necessary supplies at each group.

## During the workshop

- Step 5** After lunch, welcome the students in your classroom and start the workshop using the attached PowerPoint presentation (appendix 6). This will provide the students with the necessary background knowledge and give meaning to the workshop.
- Step 6** Divide the group into pairs (or trio's optionally) for the different stations but keep an eye on the social atmosphere among them. It is, of course, up to the teacher to intervene, if necessary, if that improves the group dynamics.
- Step 7** Read through the student manual collectively and watch the following video as an inspiration: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrONlg\\_bi-o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrONlg_bi-o) Any questions or uncertainties will be addressed.
- Step 8** From this point onwards, students have complete creative freedom to shape their collected plastic waste into a mosaic. Walk around to assist and intervene as needed. It is important for the teacher to keep track of the time to ensure the final product is not rushed.
- Step 9** Fifteen minutes before the end signal, remind the students to finish their work, pick up the materials, and tidy up their workstations. Collect the completed work on your desk.
- Step 10** Conclude the workshop, together with your colleague if there is one present, and of the day itself, providing a collective closing moment.

### Supplies needed

- Plastic waste
- Cardboard
- Pairs of scissors
- Glue
- Ruler
- Student guide
- Cleaning supplies

### *Optional*

- Old buttons
- Shells
- Stones and/or pebbles
- Paint
- Frames

## Student Instructions

Gain insight into the concept of the plastic soup by a SeaFirst presentation and develop creative thinking skills to brainstorm effective ways to address this environmental issue. Explore actionable steps that everyone can take to minimize plastic usage and understand the broader impact of plastic waste on ecosystems, particularly in the sea. Internalize the central question: "Can I still make something out of the plastic waste?" Embrace the mindset of a circular economy by focusing on the principles of reuse, reduce, and recycle when dealing with plastic waste. This holistic approach aims to encourage sustainable practices and contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment.

### Learning Objectives

- At the end of the workshop, students know about the world's waters and its importance.
- At the end of the workshop, students have awareness about the plastic soup, its origins, and the environmental and social consequences.
- At the end of the workshop, students are encouraged to evaluate their own habits and their impact on the plastic waste issue.
- At the end of the workshop, students have a conscious lookout on a circular economy: reuse, reduce and recycle.

## Instructions

**Step 1** After your teacher's presentation, you will form groups of two (or three, optionally).

**Step 2** Watch the following video as inspiration for your own work:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrONlg\\_bi-o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrONlg_bi-o)

**Step 3** From this point onwards you have the complete creative freedom to shape your collected plastic waste into a mosaic: be authentic!

**Step 4** The materials listed above will be available for you to use. Be careful when cutting the plastic pieces. Cut the cardboard boxes up so you have a flat surface to glue your pieces onto.

**Step 5** Fifteen minutes before the end, your teacher will remind you to finish your work, pick up the provided materials, and tidy up your workstations. Place your completed work on your teacher's desk.

## Clean-up To Do List:

**Step 1** Close all glue tubes to prevent them from drying out.

**Step 2** Dispose of all waste and cardboard scraps in the trash bin.

**Step 3** Clean your workspace using the available cleaning supplies.

**Step 4** Gather all used scissors and rules and place them back in the bins.

**Step 5** Write your names on the back of your artwork.

## Attachment 1: Create awareness



<https://www.buha.nl/buha-start-met-escaperoom-over-zwerfafval-en-plasticsoep>

# Plastic soup

[,plɛs.tɪk'sup]

### Noun

1. All the plastic polluting the ocean; the plastic bags floating on the ocean surface, as well as the micro- and nano-plastics in the seawater.
2. The huge expanse of floating debris polluting the oceans mainly originates from litter on land, a primary source of which is single-use plastic products.

*A picture is worth a thousand words* – Fred R. Barnard.

Most youngsters share the same gloomy thoughts when it comes to “adult” issues such as sustainability and climate change because we haven’t yet succeeded in effectively communicating these pressing problems to you. These topics seemed distant for you, while your generation will be most affected by them. It is, therefore, crucial that we bring about a change in how we can approach them in an accessible manner.

The desire to remedy plastic pollution in the oceans is an objective that requires multiple steps: it involves adopting a different mindset and lifestyle that will ultimately bring about this change. It is up to us to consider how we can repurpose existing plastic waste so that it is given new life. To introduce this new mindset, today you will create it from the plastic waste you’ve personally found: **Trash Treasure**.