



Explore

Leave only footprints

Stage

6

30 mins



Skills builder



Aim of activity

'Take only photos and leave only footprints'. Find out about sustainable tourism so you can be a tourist without leaving a trace.

What you'll get out of it

- Understand the damaging effects of tourism.
- Discover ways to protect special places.
- Plan how to travel responsibly.

What you'll need

- Paper
- Pens
- A pot or bowl
- Play-dough
- A selection of travel guidebooks or internet access



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding



Explore

Before you start

Choose eight of the following guidelines and write them out on separate slips of paper. Place them in a pot or bowl.

1. Reduce your carbon footprint.
2. Visit lesser-known places – get off the beaten track.
3. Respect local culture.
4. Find out about the history before you visit.
5. Only take photos. Check photography is allowed first and don't use flash.
6. Support the local economy – shop local. Spread your money around, try not to spend it all in the same restaurant or shop.
7. Choose ethical souvenirs. Avoid buying products made from threatened natural resources – for example, things that contribute to animal exploitation or are made from non-sustainable wood.
8. Spread the word – raise awareness about how to travel sustainably.
9. Don't feed or approach wildlife.
10. Take your rubbish when you leave and reduce, reuse and recycle as you would at home. Ask if you're not sure of local rules.
11. Be energy aware – minimise how much you use, for example by reusing your hotel towel, and turning off lights and air-con when you're not in your room.

What to do

1 Take turns to pick a slip of paper from the pot or bowl. When it's your turn, choose a method below to communicate the guideline to the rest of the group.

- Charades
- Make it out of play-dough
- Draw it
- Play a game where you can't say related words to the topic
- Use props

2 Can the rest of the group guess what your guideline is? For each one, think about how easy or difficult you'd find it to follow the guideline. Some of the guidelines may come naturally to you, others you may never have thought about.

3 Keep taking turns until you've done all the guidelines.

4 When you've finished, share stories of when you've followed the guidelines, either on a trip abroad or in the UK.

5 Next, get into small groups and pick a country to visit. Using the guidebooks available, online resources and your own experience, plan a trip following as many of the guidelines as possible.

How much information can you get from the guidebooks or online to help you find out the timing of festivals, lesser-known sites to visit and types of souvenirs to buy, for example?

When you're planning, think about:

- Transport
- Accommodation
- Entertainment
- Recreation
- Eating and drinking
- Shopping

6 Share your plans with the other groups. Together, can you think of any ways to make each plan more sustainable?

Take it further

Next time you go on a trip, plan how to be a sustainable tourist.