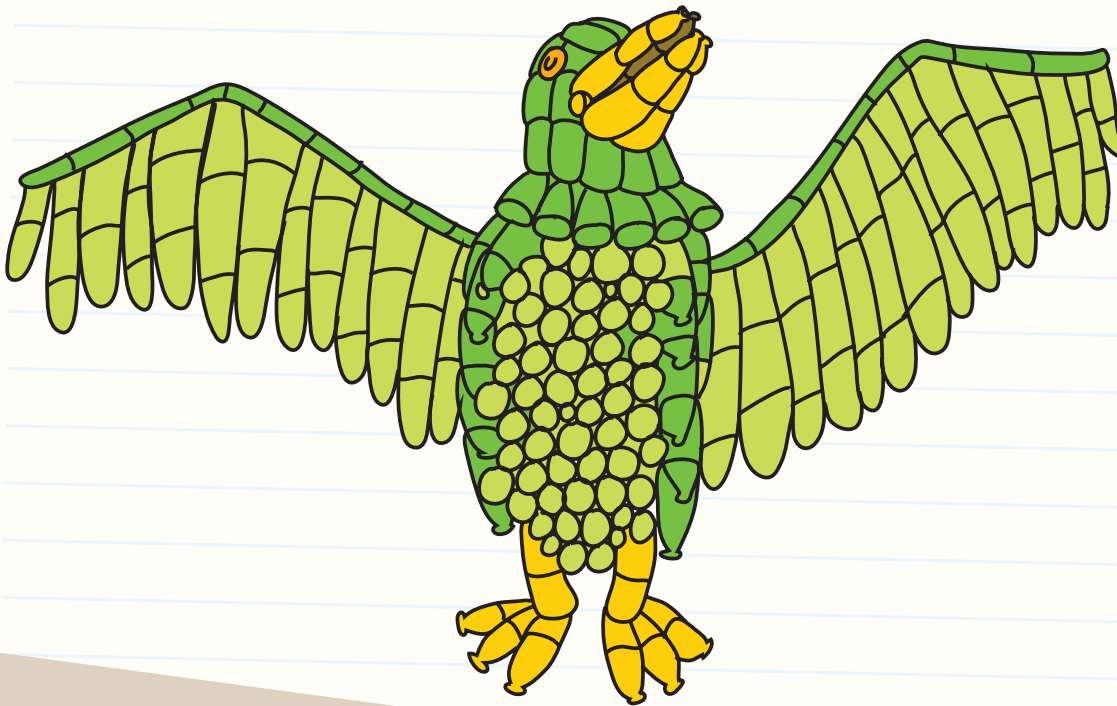


Pass on plastic



Future Girl
Acts



60 mins



Give it a go

Aim of activity

Future Girl Acts is our new annual week of action. Every year we'll come together on an issue you care about. This year it's plastic pollution.

What you'll get out of it

- Discover how our use of plastics can harm our planet.
- Take action against plastic pollution.
- Get your voice heard.
- Use creative modelling skills to create plastic sculptures.

What you'll need

- Hard plastic items – see note to leader
- Recyclable tape – such as paper tape
- A bottle template, 1 per girl and sculpture ideas – available at girlguiding.org.uk/futuregirlactsresource
- Camera
- Pens
- Paper (optional)
- Sticky tack (optional)

In partnership with



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding



Note to leader

A couple of weeks before this session, ask your girls to collect hard plastic waste, for example, shampoo bottles. Ensure everything is clean, safe to use and hasn't been purchased specifically to complete this activity.

If your unit wants to talk more about the plastic problem, pop back to girlguiding.org.uk/futuregirlactsresource where you can find great resources to help you explore the issue.

You can find details of your local decision makers (for example, your assembly member) at theyworkforyou.com.

Girlguiding units everywhere will be completing this activity and sharing it online using **#FutureGirlActs** and don't forget to share your **#PlasticPromise** as well. Photos will be added to a photo wall, so you can check out each others creations. Remember to check photo permissions before posting content online.

What to do

1 Look at the plastic you've brought in. How much do you think there is?

2 Work together to lay out all your items, end to end, on the floor and count the number of items as you go. This is all the plastic that you have collected as a unit. Is the amount surprising?

3 Now, lie down next to your plastic line to create a Brownie line. How long is your plastic line compared to your Brownie line? What else does your line compare to?

What am I as long as?

- A bottlenose dolphin is as long as two and a half Brownies.
- An orca is as long as five and a half Brownies.
- A blue whale is as long as 24 Brownies.

4 We use plastic every day – it's used for bottles, food wrapping, toys and much more. Each year 300 million tonnes of plastic is made – that's almost the same weight as all the adults in the world!

Some of it is recycled – but a lot of it gets left everywhere! Plastic doesn't rot so it stays around in our environment for a long time. Animals may eat the plastic and it hurts them. What do you think we can do to help?

Deposit return schemes

Right now, only half of our plastic is recycled. Some countries are trying something new to help us to recycle more.

It's called a deposit return scheme. It's like a reverse vending machine. Every time you buy something in plastic, you pay a little more but when you give the plastic back, you get your money back.

These schemes mean over 90% of plastic is recycled. Scotland is already working towards getting one and we want to see one across the whole of the UK!



5 Do you think a deposit return scheme sounds like a good idea? We can do something to help, if we all work together.

You're our Planet Protectors! Your mission is to let people know that we want to protect animals and the planet from plastic pollution!

6 You're going to use the plastic to create a sculpture of an animal you want to protect from plastic pollution, like sea creatures. Decide if you want to do this in Sixes or as a whole unit.

7 Ready? Start your sculpture. Make it as big as possible to show how big the plastic problem is. Use your recyclable tape to stick it all together.

Top tip

You can use small amounts of sticky tack to help your sculpture stick together. Just make sure you remove it before recycling your plastic and save it to use again!

8 When you're done, bring all your plastic animals together. Your leader can take a photo of your masterpiece and share it online using **#FutureGirlActs** and **#PlasticPromise** so that other girls can see your creation.

9 We want decision makers to listen to us. Everyone, grab a bottle template and write or draw about why you care about plastic pollution and why you want it to stop. Your leader can send these to your local decision makers as part of Future Girl Acts.

Girlguiding units everywhere are also doing this, now is our time to make our voices heard. Well done, you've been amazing Planet Protectors today!

10 Don't forget to recycle all the plastic you've used – take it home or to a recycling centre so you're doing your bit to stop plastic pollution. If you've used sticky tack, don't forget to take this off and reuse it.

Try it this way

Want to try another way to influence your decision makers? Visit [girlguiding.org.uk/futuregirlactsresource](https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/futuregirlactsresource) to explore what Influence skills builder activities you could do.

Take it further

Make your own **#PlasticPromise** – come up with one way you can use less plastic and one way you could help your community use less plastic. You can find some ideas at [girlguiding.org.uk/futuregirlactsresource](https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/futuregirlactsresource). Your leader can share it online using **#PlasticPromise**.