

Recycle revival



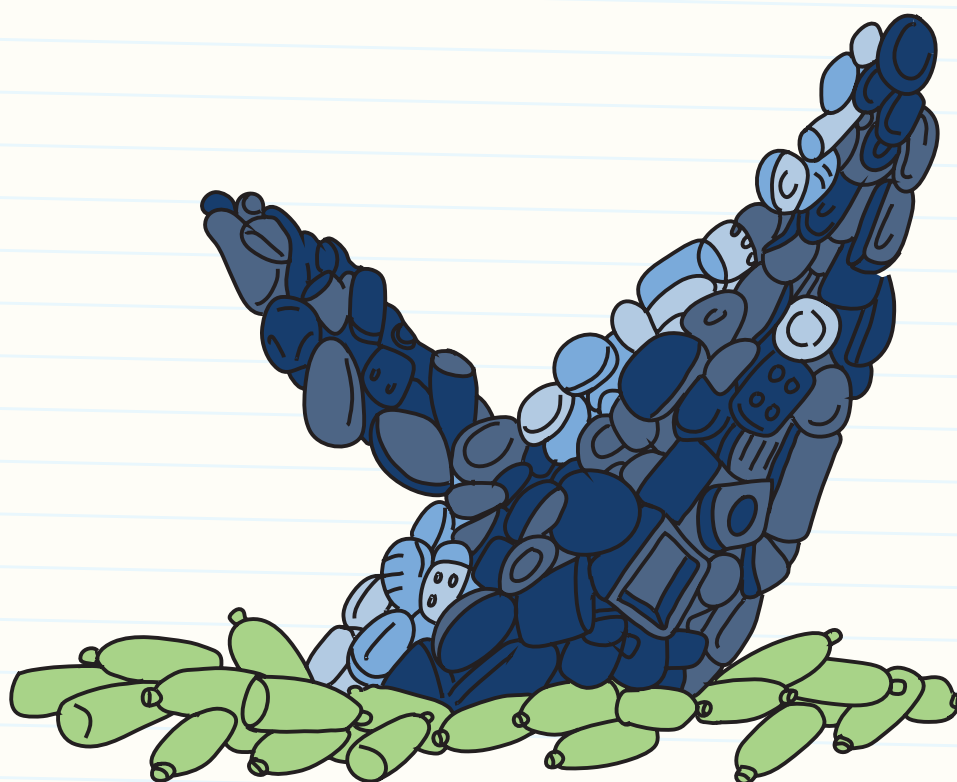
Future Girl Acts



60 mins



Jump straight in



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.
- Influence decision makers.
- Use creative modelling skills to create plastic sculptures.

What you'll need

- 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, yoghurt pots. Ensure it's 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](https://www.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](https://www.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 sharing photos online.

What to do

1 How many pieces of plastic do you think you've collected as a group? Count it all up and see who was the closest.

2 Lay out all your items, end to end, on the floor. Creating a human chain, lie down next to your plastic line. How long is your plastic line compared to your Guide chain? What else does your line compare to?

What am I as long as?

- A bottlenose dolphin is as long as two Guides.
- An orca is as long as four and a half Guides.
- A blue whale is as long as 17 Guides.

3 What might all this plastic do to our natural world? What do you think we could do to help?

Plastic pollution is a global issue which is destroying our planet. Every year we make over 300 million tonnes of plastic – that's almost the same weight as all the adults in the world.

Globally, only around 9% of plastic is recycled. The rest ends up in our environment. It can take 450 years for a plastic bottle to biodegrade. This is a huge issue for our planet and animals – around 100 million sea creatures are killed each year from plastic pollution.

Deposit return schemes

There is something our government can do to help stop plastic ending up in our oceans – introduce a deposit return scheme.

This is where people pay a little more money every time they buy food or drinks in plastic bottles or containers. People then get their money back when they hand back the empty bottles and containers to shops.

Many countries already have a deposit return scheme and they work well. In Norway over 90% of all their plastic is now recycled. In the UK we recycle less than half of our plastic.

The Scottish Government has already announced a deposit return scheme. But we want there to be one for the whole of the UK and around the whole world!



4 Get into Patrols. You've become the Planet Protector council and you need to showcase why we need to tackle plastic pollution. Use the plastic you've collected to create a big sculpture of something that you want to save from plastic pollution, or something which shows you want plastic pollution to stop. For example, you could make a turtle or a massive plastic bottle.

5 Ready? Get sculpting! Make it as big as you can to show the huge impact that plastic pollution is having on our world. 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!

6 When you're done, bring all your spectacular creations together. Snap a photo and your leader can share it online using **#FutureGirlActs** and **#PlasticPromise**.

7 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 maker as part of Future Girl Acts.

Girlguiding units everywhere are also doing this. We want our voices to be part of the discussion on how a deposit return scheme would work.

8 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

It's time to take a stand against plastic pollution. Make your own **#PlasticPromise** – come up with one way you can use less plastic at home and in your unit. Your leader can share it online using **#PlasticPromise**.

Find out more about the recycling process and ways you can help your community recycle more at [girlguiding.org.uk/futuregirlactsresource](https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/futuregirlactsresource).