

Plastic free planet



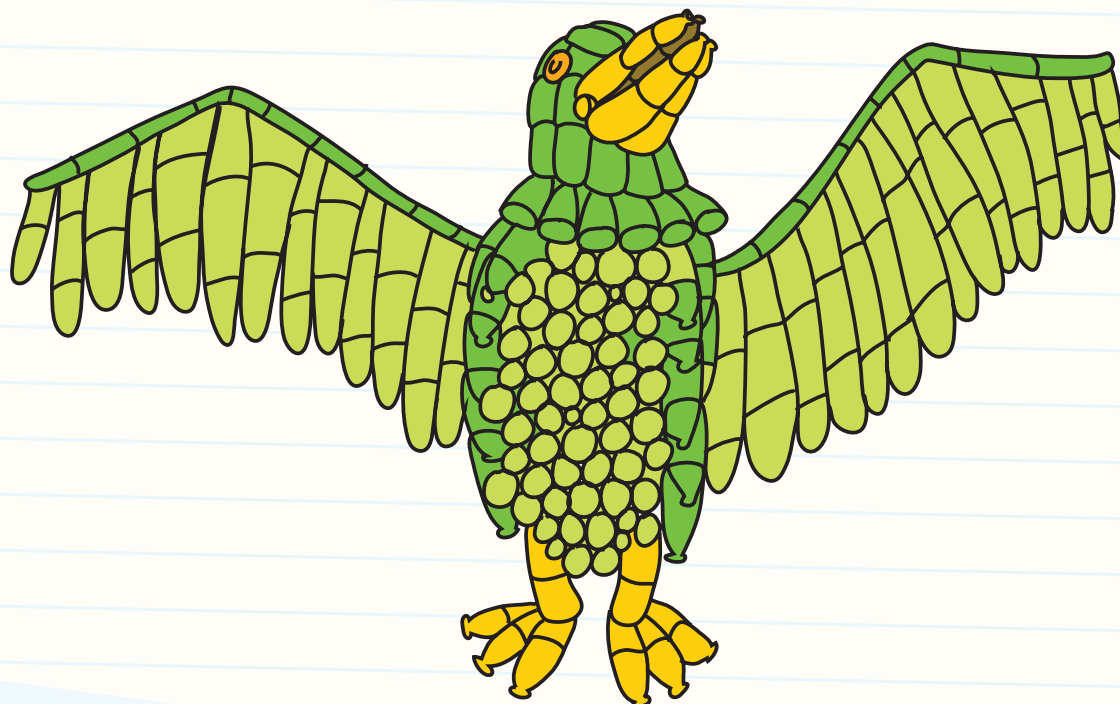
Future Girl Acts



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, 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 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 everyone has 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 We use plastic every day – it's used for drinks 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! Call out your ideas of what you think happens to it when we throw it away.

- 3 People recycle some of it – but a lot of it gets left everywhere. Plastic stays around in our environment for a long time, as it doesn't rot. Animals may eat the plastic and this hurts them. The animals that get hurt the most are whales, dolphins, sea birds, turtles and fish. What do you think we could 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 it all across the UK.

- 4 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 our planet and all the animals from plastic pollution.



5 You're going to use the plastic you've collected 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 small groups or as a whole unit.

6 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!

7 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.

8 We want decision makers to listen to us. Everyone, grab a bottle template and draw or write 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, now is our time to make our voices heard. Well done, you've been amazing Planet Protectors today!

9 Don't forget to recycle all the plastic you've used – take it home or to a recycling centre so we're doing our 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** – think about where the plastic for your sculpture came from. Can you come up with one way you can use less plastic? For example, you could use a reusable water bottle. Your leader can share your **#PlasticPromise** online.