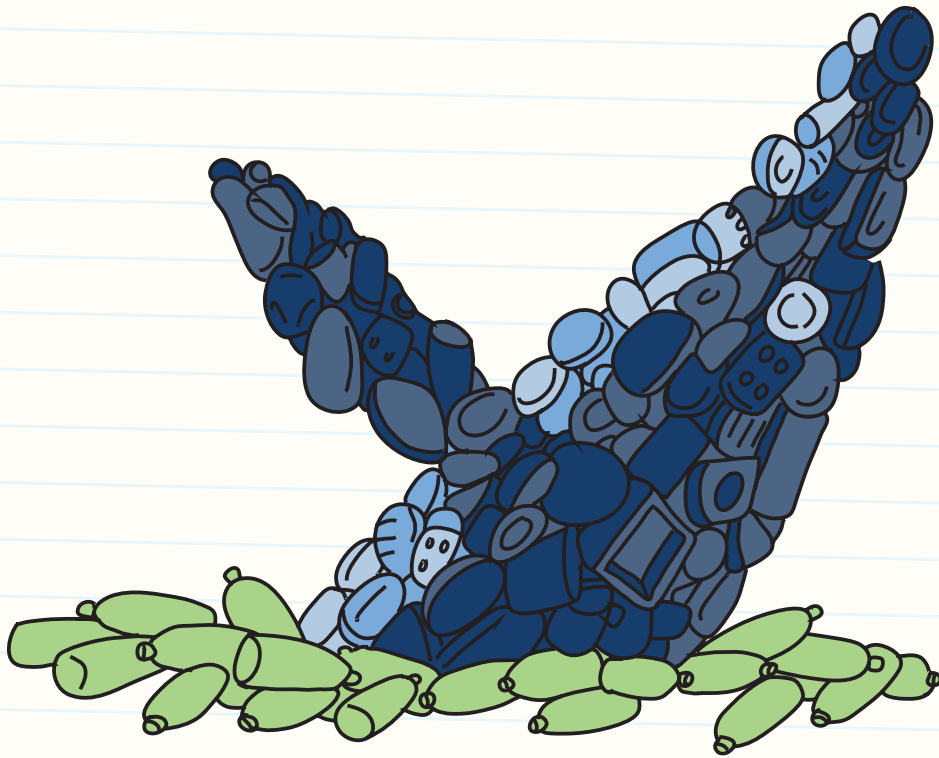


Recycle for survival



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 their hard plastic waste, for example, shampoo bottles. Ensure it's all 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? Take a guess, and count it all up. Who was the closest?

Try it this way

Lay out your plastic in a line and create a human chain next to it. What does it compare to?

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

2 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.



3 Get into groups. You need to showcase why we need to tackle plastic pollution. Use the plastic you've collected to create a magnificent 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.

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

Top tip

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

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

6 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. You can then 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.

7 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. You can share your **#PlasticPromise** online.

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).