


# BEACH OBSERVATION PUZZLE

A magnifying glass icon with a blue lens and a black handle, positioned to the right of the word "PUZZLE".

## Educational Eco Guide



## Let's keep our oceans clean

Trash pollutes our world's oceans, making the beaches and water dirty and dangerous.

You might get hurt if you step on a piece of trash. Sea turtles, birds, fish, and mammals can get sick from eating it, or they can get tangled in it and can't swim or fly.

That's why the people and animals in this puzzle are having fun cleaning things up!

## Plastic trash is the worst

Some types of waste are more dangerous than others. Over time, natural materials like cotton, paper, and wood will break down into harmless dust. But plastic lasts forever.

Every day, tons of plastic trash washes into rivers and oceans. Some of it gets caught in currents, going in circles to form huge ocean garbage patches. It breaks into tiny microplastics that will pollute the planet for thousands of years.

Plastic is also a problem because it's made from oil. The oil is pumped from underground and travels a long way in pipes, ships, and trucks, using a lot of energy. Sometimes it leaks or spills, which is dangerous for animals and people.

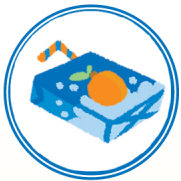


# You can help!



## Pick up litter

When trash is left on the ground, rain and wind carry it into rivers and oceans. When your family plays outside, take a few minutes to clean up any trash you see.



## Use less plastic

Scientists think that in 30 years, the plastic trash in the ocean will weigh more than all the fish! If you bring a reusable jug, you won't need to buy juice boxes or plastic water bottles.



## Plan ahead for the planet

Bring your own silverware instead of taking disposable, single-use utensils. If you pack a picnic, try reusable containers instead of plastic snack bags.



## Look for natural fibers

When you wash polyester clothes, plastic threads break off and pollute the water. Choose clothes made of cotton, linen, or wool when you can.



## Choose reusable

Plastic bags look like tasty jellyfish to sea animals, so they eat them and get sick. Help your family remember to bring cloth bags to the store so you won't need plastic bags.



## Watch your step

Plants and coral provide food and homes for insects, fish, birds, and other animals. Try not to walk on beach grass, and don't touch coral in the water.



## Think before you buy

If you want a new toy, think about what it is made of. Plastic toys can pollute the planet for a long time. But a toy made of wood or cardboard (like this puzzle!) can be composted, or turned into dirt by the sun, water, and worms.



## Learn about recycling

For example, metal is one of the best things to recycle because it can be melted down over and over, forever. A soup can might once have been a queen's crown or an ancient coin - and next it could be a scooter!



## Study sea creatures

Did you know that oysters filter and clean the water - and can even protect beaches from washing away in storms? The more you know, the more you can help our lakes, rivers, and oceans!

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