

CLEAN UP & PLASTIC DIARY

Photo project

Instructions

Garbage exists all over the world. But where does it come from? Over ten million tonnes of plastic waste end up in our oceans every year. Often the waste that is generated in Europe, for example, is shipped to Asia on large ships for disposal there.

Partly it comes from Germany to Sri Lanka through our waste management system, to dispose of our garbage abroad, and partly through the export of products that will be thrown away there at some point (radios, pens, paint or food cans from Germany). Unfortunately, a lot of plastic waste ends up in lakes, rivers and oceans. Let's find out where the plastic waste on our doorstep comes from!

And let's take the first small step together to fight the problem!

What you need

Cell phone or digital camera to take photos.
Paper, pen and glue.

1. Clean up

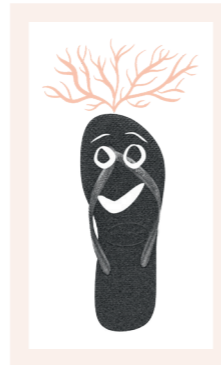
Initiate a clean-up activity with your class. Start in small groups or individually, look around for garbage in your surroundings. Pick it up and free your environment from rubbish. Each of you picks out a piece of plastic rubbish to photograph.

2. Photo shoot

Take a photo of this piece of garbage in a creative way (either the whole thing or a detail of it) - be creative!

TOOL DEVELOPER

Christiane Flechtner is a photographer and journalist. She has visited many places around the world and publishes reports on animal and environmental protection.



Who are you?

I am Flip and I lost my brother Flop.

Where are you from?

I come from a factory in China.

How do you feel?

I feel torn, not only because a rubber buckle has been torn off. I also feel torn and alone because my left counterpart is missing. My brother Flop was always there - and now he is gone.

Which path did you take to get here?

I actually came from China. Children made me and glued me together. In a huge cargo plane, I came here to Germany with thousands of other flips and flops. In Berlin a young girl bought me at a shoe shop. Later I was washed into the river Spree by a small wave on a beach not far from Berlin. Then I went through the city centre, past the cathedral and the main train station, and then I was washed ashore here not far from where the Spree meets the Havel River.

Who will miss you?

Only Flop will miss me. Because 14-year-old Sandra, who we both bravely carried through the big city, just left us lying on the beach because my buckle was broken.

Who could you be a danger to now?

If a hedgehog or a duck got caught in my still intact buckle, it could die. And I will not rot, in fact it will take about 400 years until I disintegrate, because I am made of cheap plastic.

What can be done for you now to make you feel better?

You can cut and grind small pieces out of me and turn them into colourful key rings: The advantage: Even if the key falls into the water, it doesn't sink, it floats. Or I can be made into a small shelf or a coat hook on the wall. Then I will have a use again.

3. Interview

Back at your desk, you can write an interview with this found piece of rubbish in a creative, funny, sad or otherwise emotional way. What is the story behind this piece of plastic? The following questions should be included, but you can add more:

Who are you?

Where do you come from?

How do you feel?

Which path did you go on?

Who will miss you?

Are you a danger to anyone now?

How long do you live?

Use the internet and research where this item was produced. What is the "personal" story behind the plastic item? Often you will find the first information you need directly on the item itself (Made in China, Made in Germany). Share your results. Present your interview and photo portraits of the plastic items in an exhibition! Send your plastic diaries to the SBNE staff unit in Berlin, who will publish it on their social media channels. Send your photos and interviews to: bne@charlottenburg-wilmersdorf.de

The works from Kalpitiya and Berlin will be presented in a Facebook group and we'll exchange our experiences of the project.