

Beach Clean



Image credit: Brian Yurasits

This is a lovely way to get pupils out of the classroom to understand the breadth and impact of plastic pollution. It can also tie in to various citizen science projects that run on this subject. If your school is not conveniently located for travelling to the beach, a litter pick around school or local park is a good alternative.

Things to think about:

In advance of the beach clean, there is good opportunity to ask pupils what type and quantity of rubbish they expect to find on the beach.

Ask pupils to design a beach litter survey sheet, so that they can tally up certain types of litter when they find it. Try and break it down into categories.

Another thing to be sure of, is carefully choosing your beach location and checking tide times before planning your trip. Some beaches still have sufficient space to clean while the tide is high.

Kit List:

- Bin bags
- Gloves
- Hand sanitiser
- Survey forms
- Litter Pickers
- Risk assessment

The local council can provide a lot of support for beach cleans. They are often able to provide litter pickers and collect rubbish post-clean to save you having to dispose of it!

[Surfers Against Sewage](#) Provide a comprehensive guide to organising public beach cleans, which can be used as a framework to plan your own beach clean!



Image credit: Shmuser via Wikipedia

The Great Nurdle Hunt



Image credit: Diego Fernandez

Nurdles are tiny bits of plastic that are melted down and moulded into items we use everyday, like bottles, boxes and straws.

Nurdles are found on lots of beaches around the world and may be spotted by your learners whilst out doing a beach clean.

Often, nurdles are transported to plastics factories around the world in shipping containers. Sometimes, these shipping containers fall into the sea in bad weather.

When this happens, it is impossible to get the nurdles back, as they are so tiny and they disappear into the sea.

Nurdles can be dangerous to sea creatures and birds that think they are food. A citizen science project called the [Great Nurdle Hunt](#) is tracking where the most nurdles around the world are found. Check out their [world map](#) to see if there are any nurdles on your nearest beach!



*Nurdles on a beach in France
Image credit: maldeseine
via Wikipedia*



*Nurdles that spilled from a train in the USA
Image credit: gentlemanrook
via Wikipedia*