Green-Schools

An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

GREEN-SCHOOLS STAY HOME

Plastic Soup

Plastic & Our Oceans

Plastic litter is a big problem for our oceans. Every day millions of single-use plastic products are thrown away, but unfortunately there is no "away", and many of these items end up polluting our oceans and seriously harming wildlife.

Over time plastic litter breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces creating a "plastic soup" in the ocean.

Look at the items in the Plastic Soup image above, are you surprised that these might end up in the ocean?

PLASTIC SOUP ACTIVITY...

- Using a pen and paper draw a table with three columns.
- In the first column, write the heading "Item" and list all the litter items pictured in the Plastic Soup image above., if you think of more plastic litter items add them in too!
- In the second column write the heading "Source" and put down one way you think each of those items might have ended up in the sea (try to come up with as many ideas as you can!)
- In the third column, use the heading "Alternative" and write down an alternative to using that plastic item - could you get the same thing made from a more sustainable material? Do you really need that item in the first place? See the table below as an example!

Item	Source	Alternative
Plastic bag	Littered near to a river	Reusable cloth bag

How can I help reduce single-use plastics?

People are becoming more and more aware of the dangers of single-use plastics for our environment, especially our marine environment! There are lots of easy ways to cut down on the amount of single-use plastics you use. Check out Green-Schools new "Let's Go Plastic Free" tips booklet and poster, or make a plastic free pledge! There's lots of ideas that work both in school and at home!