

## Case Study: Plastics in our water ways

### Activity Sheet 11. "Message in a Bottle"

#### Introduction

This activity consolidates student knowledge and provides them with an opportunity to express and share their opinions using a variety of formats. This activity provides a strong foundation for Activity Sheet 13.

The content of this activity sheet relates to the following Geographical Concepts and Skills and Geographical Knowledge:

#### Geographical Concepts and Skills

Place, Space and interconnection

- Identify, analyse and explain significant spatial distributions and patterns and identify and evaluate their implications, over time and at different scales.

#### Geographical Knowledge

- Causes of an atmospheric or hydrological hazard and its impacts on places, and human responses to it to minimise harmful effects on places in the future

#### Task:

1. As a prompt play a song that has lyrics that can be used/interpreted to create a strong message about the importance of looking after our oceans and the impacts that plastics can have in our waterways. Your students may know different songs, but some examples are:

["Message in a Bottle" by The Police.](#)

["Messages" by Xavier Rudd](#)

["Plastic Beach" by Gorillaz](#)

If you wish you could look at the lyrics of the selected song and discuss with students how they could relate the lyrics to the content.

2. By referring back to past lessons discuss with the class what messages they would like to write down to share with the public about plastics in our waterways. To initiate this discussion questions such as the following could be asked:
  - What is happening to the amount of plastic waste in our waterways?
  - What are they main items contributing to plastic waste?

- To what extent are plastic bottles contributing to this problem?
- What impact is plastic waste having on the marine environment?
- What can be done to reduce the amount of plastic waste and the issues associated with it?

3. Using the key questions listed above and the follow up discussion as a guide, get students to list the two or three key points that they would like to include in their message. Once they have decided this allow students time to draft and then write their final message. If you have used the song "Message in a Bottle" then you could use this as a title and focus for this activity. These messages could then either be read out in class or produced in a graphic format so that they could be displayed in the classroom or around the school.

4. There are alternative ways that step three could be undertaken. For example, students could make a short iMovie using images, facts and statistics. Alternatively students could create a Youtube clip that expresses their message. If students or the school has a Twitter account, then these pledges could be shared on Twitter or other social media accounts. These types of approaches can be quite powerful and allow students to express their thoughts in a format that suits their skill set.