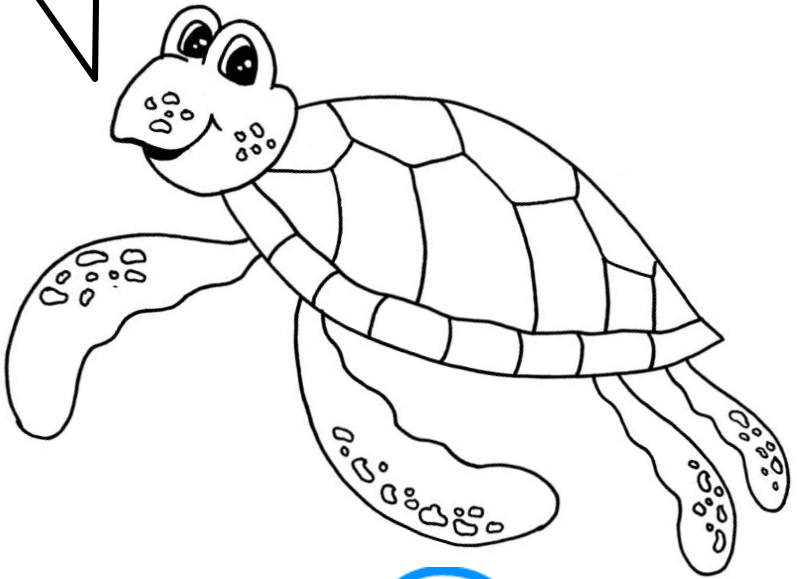


Can YOU be a

REEF
KEEPER?

Colour
me in!



For Parents, Caregivers and Teachers

Marine litter is one of the most threatening, but also the most solvable pollution issues currently affecting our oceans and waterways. It is a solvable issue because it is very easy for everyone to do something about it.

This booklet informs children about how everyone can contribute to the health of the marine environment by helping to remove litter from our beaches and creeks, and reducing the amount of litter that enters our waterways.

Some extra activity ideas include:

- Joining a group beach or creek clean-up, or conduct your own.
- Creating art from marine debris.
- Up-cycling objects and creating something new, such as hanging ornaments made from bottle tops, or planters made from decorated jars.
- Designing posters about pollution.

Young children are the future custodians of the environment. We can help them to make a difference by fostering love and respect for the natural world. Thank you for your support!



Hi! My name is Gracie the Turtle!

A while ago, I was very sick. Luckily, someone found me on the beach and called for help. I was taken to the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre at Eco Barge HQ.

I ate a plastic bag. With the bag in my tummy, I couldn't eat my food properly. I was so tired and hungry that I could not swim any more.

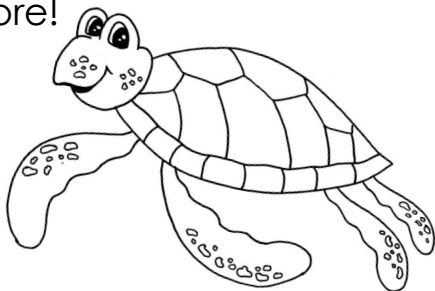
I ate the bag because when it was floating in the water, it looked just like a yummy jellyfish!

Can you help to stop rubbish getting into the ocean?

Complete the activities in this booklet to find out more!

Thank you!

Gracie

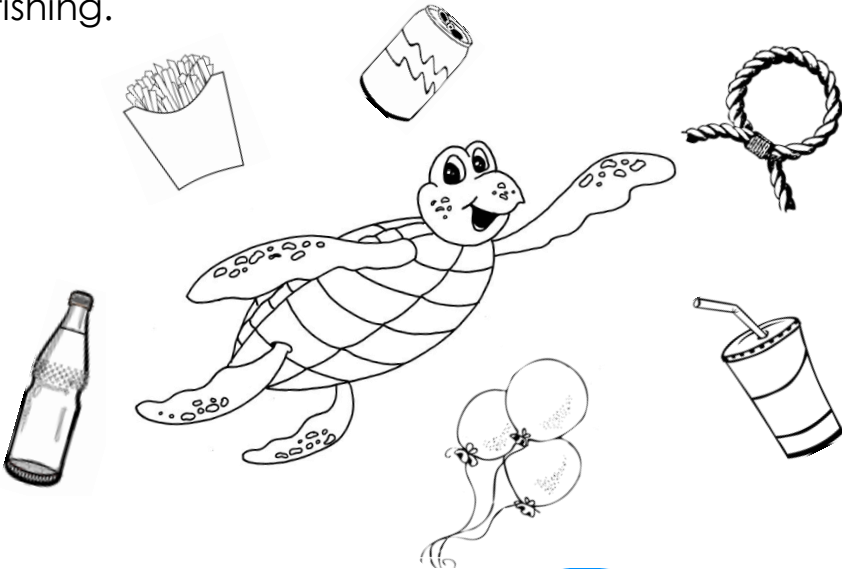


What is Marine Debris?

Marine debris means any rubbish that is washed, blown or dumped into the ocean, creeks and waterways. Marine debris also gets washed up onto beaches.

The most common marine debris is plastic, especially food and drink packaging like wrappers, cans, containers and bottles.

Lots of marine debris comes from boating and fishing.



Marine Debris Word Search

Can you find the different types of rubbish found in our oceans? Answers are at the end of this booklet.



FISHING LINE

NET

LURES

CONTAINER

BOTTLE

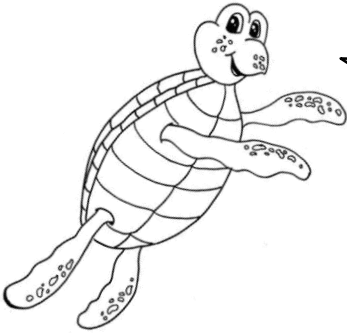
DISPOSABLE CUP

TIN CAN

PLASTIC BAG



Why is Marine Debris a Problem?



Marine debris causes problems for people, animals and the ocean!

- ★ Getting tangled up in rubbish such as fishing line or net can injure animals or stop them from moving, breathing and eating properly.
- ★ Rubbish can look like food to marine animals and birds. Eating rubbish stops the animal from eating real food.
- ★ Rubbish on the beach can be dangerous to people. They might tread on sharp objects that they can't see in the water or sand.
- ★ Many plastics break down into tiny pieces which even small fish can eat.



Rubbish Timeline

Rubbish takes a very long time to break down in the ocean. Some objects will never disappear, but will break down into very tiny pieces that are still harmful to the environment.

Draw a line from each object to the timeline to show how long you think it could take to break down in the ocean. The answers are at the end of this booklet.



aluminium
can



plastic
bottle



fishing line



plastic
bag

20 years



200 years



450 years

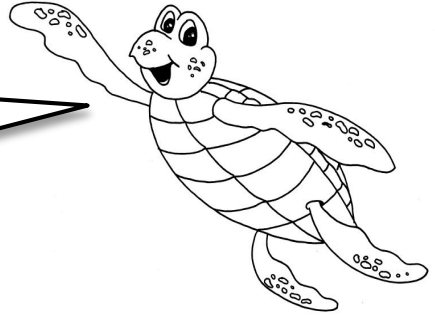


600 years

How can you help?

Most marine debris comes from land. This means that someone did not put their rubbish in the bin, or let it blow or wash away.

You can help to keep rubbish out of the ocean!



Always put rubbish in a bin or take it with you.



If the adult you are with says it is safe, you could pick up rubbish when you go for a walk.



If you go boating, fishing or camping, take all your equipment and rubbish back with you.

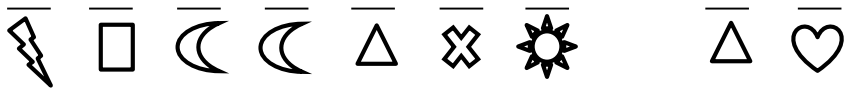
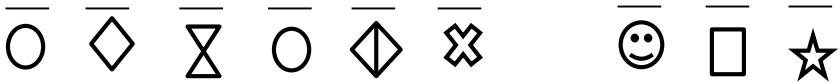


Untie balloons after outdoor celebrations and put them in the bin. Burst balloons can look like jellyfish in the water and birds and other animals can eat or get tangled up in string.



Reef Keeper Code Breaker

Can you break the code to find the message?
 Insert the correct letters using symbols from the table.
 The answer is at the end of this booklet.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
◯	☾	▯▯	☾	⊕	→	☾	☀	△	←
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
🏝️	◊	☾	♥	↑	☺	☁	⚡	⊗	☆
		U	V	W	X	Y	Z		
		◻	↓	⌵	◊	◊	◻		

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

REDUCE the amount of rubbish you make by using items that don't have a lot of packaging.

Buy in bulk rather than buying lots of small items!

REUSE items rather than buying disposable items.

Use containers for sandwiches rather than plastic sandwich bags and buy reusable spoons instead of ones that you throw away!

RECYCLE as much as you can and make sure you know what can go in the recycling bin.

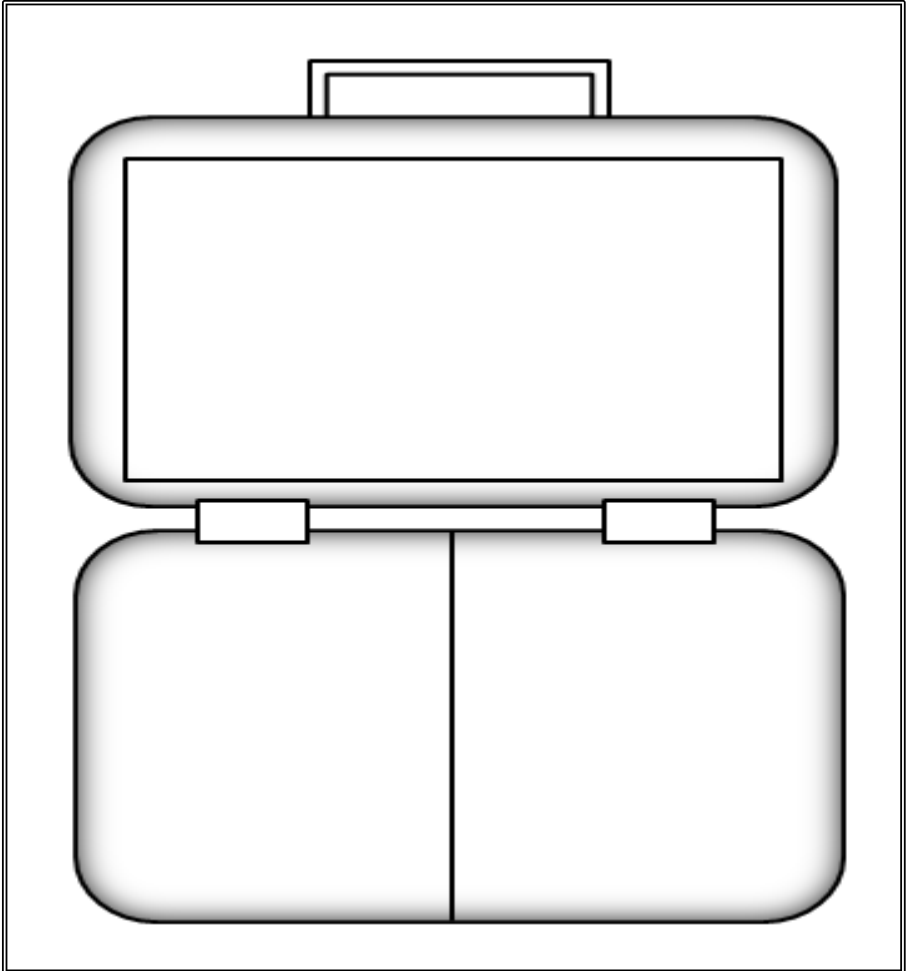


Check if you can put paper or plastic packaging from your lunch in the recycling bin!



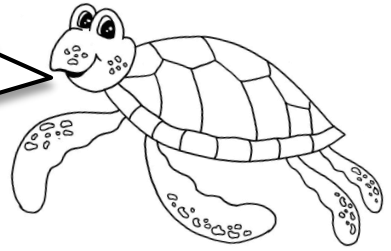
Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

Do you take a lunchbox to school? Food and drink packaging creates lots of rubbish. Can you draw a delicious lunch without rubbish inside this lunchbox?







What to do if a turtle needs help!




Sometimes we bask in the sun, but how can you tell if we need help?

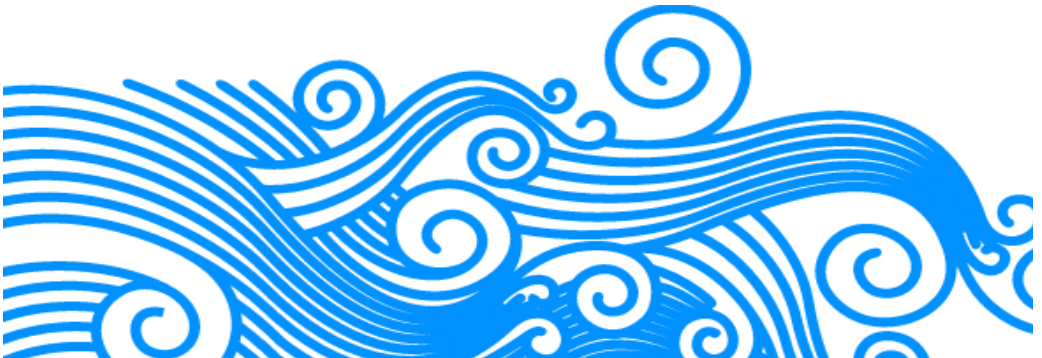


A sick turtle might...

-  float, bob around or roll onto one side
-  look weak and tired
-  be very thin and look hungry
-  have an injury that you can see.

If you find a sick or injured turtle, tell an adult and...

-  don't touch or pick up the turtle, it might bite you or hurt you with their strong flippers.
-  note the turtle's surroundings, condition and what it is doing to help the rescuers.
-  **call RSPCA Animal Stranding Hotline on 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)**



Can you find our turtles?

The Great Barrier Reef is home to six of the world's seven species of marine turtles. The answers are at the end of this booklet.

Can you unscramble the words and find our turtles?

FLATBACK

LEATHERBACK

HAWKSBILL

OLIVE RIDLEY

LOGGERHEAD

GREEN

1. RNGEE

2. EHABTLCARKE

3. LEIVO ERYLDI

4. RGALHEOEGD

5. ISLAKWLBH

6. TBAALCKF

REEF KEEPER CERTIFICATE



I am a Reef Keeper and I will:

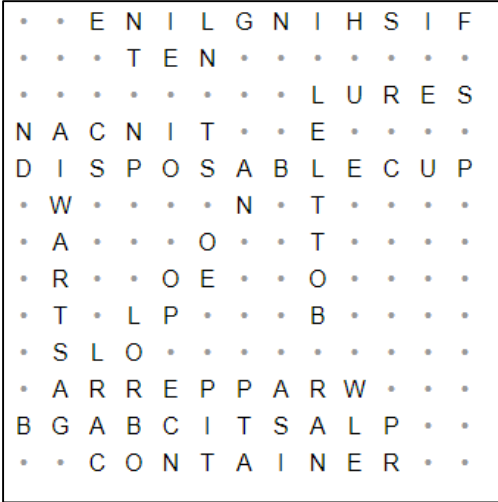
- ✓ always put rubbish in a bin
- ✓ clean up after parties and picnics
- ✓ reduce the amount of rubbish I make by buying items with less packaging
- ✓ reuse items or make new things from them
- ✓ recycle as much as I can
- ✓ tell my friends and family about how we can all stop rubbish from entering our waterways.
- ✓ When at the beach pick up 5 to keep our sea life alive

Name.....



Answers

Marine Debris Word Search:



Code Breaker: ALWAYS PUT RUBBISH IN THE BIN

Turtle Word Scramble:

1. GREEN
2. LOGGERHEAD
3. LEATHERBACK
4. HAWKSBILL
5. OLIVE RIDLEY
6. FLATBACK

Rubbish Timeline:

Approximate time to break down in the ocean...

Plastic bag: 20 years

Aluminium can: 200 years

Plastic bottle: 450 years

Fishing line: 600 years

If you ever see a sick or injured marine turtle please contact the **RSPCA Animal Stranding Hotline on 1300 ANIMAL (264 625)**

For more information please contact us:

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Mobile 0417 642 815

Email info@ecobargecleanseas.org.au

Web www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au

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