



# pack chat

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## think about it

Why does wildlife have to suffer for our wanton laziness, disregard, and neglect for the planet, not to mention insidious greed on the part of corporations, who are responsible for producing it in the first place? We have recycle facilities in place, but, people will not return it if they paid nothing to begin with!

<https://www.change.org>

## plastic - *not* so fantastic

Every year, about 136 billion kg of plastic is produced around the world, and only a fraction is recycled. Where does the rest end up? Well, the majority ends up in landfills, but some finds its way into our oceans. Plastic is valued for its resistance to degradation, so its life span can be hundreds of years. When plastic reaches our oceans, it eventually breaks down due to the action of the sun, wind and currents, into small, literally bite sized pieces that wildlife confuse with food. It's an easy mistake to make.

The trash vortex is one of the most studied areas of plastic accumulation in our oceans. At its maximum the area can reach the size of Texas. It is made up of everything from tiny pieces of plastic debris to large ghost nets lost by the fishing industry.

As trash swirls through the world's oceans to a handful of vortexes like this, it leaves a trail of death and destruction along its path. Plastic is often mistaken for food and has been found inside marine life of all sizes, from whales to zooplankton. It has been directly blamed for the death of a wide range of animals including albatrosses and sea turtles. Only a small percentage of the trash found at sea is thought to originate there. So how does the rest of it make it out to sea? It comes from a variety of sources, from the litter you see on the streets to industrial waste. Every time it rains, pollution of all kinds washes from land into storm drains and rivers, eventually reaching the ocean. Once there, the long-lasting qualities of plastic mean that it remains in the ecosystem for decades (and potentially longer), and as more trash accumulates, our oceans and the inhabitants within them are facing a crisis.



<https://www.greenpeace.org/archive-international/en/news/features/trashing-our-oceans/>

## did you know?

- **Straws** are one of the **Top 10** items found in beach clean-ups!
- **Plastic bags** can take **1000 years** to break down in landfills.
- Between **500 billion and 1 trillion plastic bags** are used worldwide every year!
- Every single piece of plastic that has ever been made still exists today. (Source: Two Oceans Aquarium)



## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: What is the Link Badge?
- A: The Link Badge, which Cubs may earn whilst still in the Pack before going up to the Troop, is intended to prepare the Cubs for being invested as a Scout at their Going-Up Ceremony.
- Q: When do Cubs start working on the Link Badge and who works on the Link Badge with the Cubs?
- A: Cubs should start working on the Link Badge during their last two months in the Pack. It is the responsibility of the future Troop Scouter and Patrol Leader.
- Q: Where is the Link Badge positioned on the uniform and for how long is it worn?
- A: The Link Badge is worn on the left sleeve of the shirt, below the Sixer patch. The Cubs continue to wear the badge on their Scout uniform until they pass their first advancement badge as a Scout.

## games around recycling

### \* **Bottle bowling**

*Material:* 2-litre cool drink bottles or dishwashing detergent bottles and small bleach bottles, lightweight balls, sand, funnel

*How it works:* Wash and dry the bottles and put about 5cm of sand in each bottle using a funnel. The sand will weigh down the pins to make it harder to knock them down. You can decorate the pins if you want. Set up the plastic bowling pins on the playing area and give the ball to the participants. Each child has five chances to knock down the pins. The player who bowls down the pins fastest will be the winner.

### \* **Recycling relay**

*Material:* 3 labelled boxes: recycle, reuse and landfill, two boxes of clean trash

*How it works:* Place the three boxes at the end of the playing area. The reuse box should be placed the closest, the recycling Box midway and the landfill box must be furthest away. The playing teams have to figure out what they have to do with each item and then run to the bucket and place in the appropriate bin. It will reinforce the idea that reusing and recycling is cheaper and requires lesser resources than land filling. At the end of the game, you have to review each item in the box. The team members have to explain how they would reuse or recycle an item in the box.

### The Cub Outdoor Code:

"I will do my best to protect and care for wildlife, trees and flowers;

I will do my best to keep the countryside, roads and beaches free of litter."

### a prayer

**O GOD**, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the oceans and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

**WE THANK YOU** for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendour of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, and rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

**GRANT US** a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory.

Source Unknown

## care for the environment

**Moral:** If we don't actively care for the environment, it could seriously deteriorate.

There was once a little grey planet that was very sad. The people living there hadn't looked after it, despite them having all the inventions and spaceships you could ever need. They had contaminated the whole countryside so much with rubbish and pollution that there were no plants or animals left.

One day, a little boy was walking on the planet, when he passed a cave and noticed a small red flower inside. The flower was very sick - almost dying - so the boy carefully dug up the flower, with roots, soil and everything. Then, he started looking for a place where he could look after it. He searched all over the planet, but everywhere was so contaminated that there was no place the flower could possibly live in. Then he looked up at the sky and noticed the moon. It seemed to the boy that maybe the plant could survive there.

So the little boy put on his astronaut suit, and climbed into a spaceship. He put the little red flower in the back, and off they went to the moon.

Far away from all that pollution - and with the boy visiting it every day to tend it - the flower started to grow. The flower was so well cared for, that it had soon germinated, giving birth to others, and these other flowers spread onto other flowers. Before long, the whole moon was completely covered with flowers.

That's why, whenever the little boy's flowers open up, for a few minutes the moon takes on a soft red sheen, like a warning light. Maybe it's telling us that if you don't look after your planet, a day will come when flowers will only be able to grow on the moon.



<https://freestoriesforkids.com/children/stories-and-tales/>

## plastic recycling crafts

### Plastic Bottle Birdfeeder:

**Material:** plastic cool drink bottle (washed and dried), wild bird seed, two wooden spoons, scissors, string, funnel, anything to decorate the bottle



#### Instructions:

1. Carefully cut two 'x' marks into your plastic bottle. They must be opposite each other and about 10-15cm from the bottom of the bottle. They should also be just tall enough for your wooden spoon handle to slide in. Do the same another 10-15 cm higher up, but on the other quarters of the bottle so that, when you slide both spoons in, they sit perpendicular to each other and form a cross when viewed from above.
2. On the side with spoon, cut the top two flaps of the 'x' shape, so that a small hole forms where your bird seed can run out. Repeat with the spoon above.
3. Pour your wild bird seed into your soft drink bottle using the funnel. Tighten the lid properly, tie some string around it to form a loop, then hang it in a tree and wait for the birds to notice.



<http://www.easydiy.co.za/index.php/garden/585-recycled-plastic-bottle-bird-feeder>

### Eco Froggy Bank

**Material:** Plastic cup with domed lid, acrylic paint: green/white, sponge, paint brush, craft foam/cardboard: green/orange/black, plastic water bottle caps (2), glue, pencil, scissors

#### Instructions:

1. Wash and dry the plastic cup. Dab the sponge into the green paint and dab onto the plastic cup. Let the first coat dry and then apply a second coat.
2. Trace the stomach pattern onto the front of the cup. Fill in inside the pattern line with a lighter shade of green acrylic paint.
3. Cut a sponge into small square shapes. Dab into the lighter green paint and press onto the cup in a desired pattern.
4. Cut legs and arms from craft foam/cardboard. Glue in place on the cup. Cut the tongue from foam and determine the placement of the mouth line. Cut a strip of black craft foam and glue it in place.
5. Paint the water bottle caps white. Glue the caps together to create eyes. Glue small circles out of the black cardboard/foam and glue it in place on top of the caps.
6. Glue eyes to top of lid. Let dry completely.

<https://www.favecrafts.com/Green-Crafting/Eco-Froggy-Bank>



## resources:

- Check out [this](#) page: Calculate **your** ecological footprint on our planet!
- [Here](#) you can find 100 ideas on how to reduce your plastic consumption!

## news:

- Watch this space! A **Cub Badge Workbook** will soon be available. The workbook will contain **all the interest badges** with **space** for the badge examiner **to date and sign** each requirement. It also has helpful **website addresses** which the Cubs can use, with adult supervision, to assist them in earning their chosen interest badge."

More about wind and relaxing times in the next edition of **pack chat** - stay tuned!

Good hunting!  
Your **pack chat** Team  
Jeanette and Madita