

# I-SPY SOMETHING BEGINNING WITH P!

OUR HOMES ARE FULL OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF PLASTICS. SOME GOOD, SOME BAD. SO TODAY, LET'S DO A LITTLE SURVEY JUST TO SEE HOW MANY PLASTIC OBJECTS WE CAN SPOT IN THE KITCHEN.



minimum 1 hour



low level prep



parent supervision



hands on maths

we'll learn about...

## ENGLISH

by talking about our opinions and the pros and cons of plastic

## MATHS

by doing a survey and using the findings to make comparisons

## did you know?

A lot of the plastic we find at home is called 'single-use'. That means it can only be used once. Food wrappers or shampoo bottles are two good examples. This makes it different to other household plastics - like the TV, or remote control, which are used again and again and don't need to be replaced for a long time.

## LET'S GET STARTED!



how long will it take?  
just one hour!



Look at all the different types of plastic being used in your kitchen. Sort them into **(1) single-use items that will end up in landfill** (the rubbish dump), **(2) the ones you can recycle** and **(3) the ones you can reuse**. You can write down your findings on the worksheet.

here are some clues on what to look out for!

### single-use plastics going to landfill

eg meat tray, yogurt po, crisp wrapper

### recyclable single-use plastics

eg milk bottle, soda bottle, plastic bag

### reusable plastic

eg tupperware box, drinks bottle, scales

Grab a calculator to work out what percentage of your plastic waste is recycled. Add up the total number of plastic items you put in your recycling bin in one day and divide that figure by the total number of single-use plastic waste you create in one day. Then, multiply by 100 to give you a percentage.

$$\boxed{\phantom{000}} \div \boxed{\phantom{000}} \times 100 = \boxed{\phantom{000}\%}$$

total number of plastic items in your recycling bin

total number of single-use plastic waste you create

multiply by 100

your answer!

### quick questions

how many of your single-use plastic items do you recycle?

how many plastic items end up in your general waste bin each day?

can you work out the percentage of household plastic you recycle and see how it compares to the rest of the UK (45%)



## let's talk plastic

Once you've finished, talk about what you could do as a family to reduce – or recycle – the amount of plastic you use at home.

As a family, **are you remembering to recycle as much as you can?**

**Which plastics can – and can't – be recycled where you live?**

(Check out the local council rules for what will be collected.)

**Are there any recycling schemes run by supermarkets or community centres?** (Sometimes they will take harder to recycle items.)

**Can you reduce the amount of plastic you use?**

here's a few ideas to get you started!

USE CANVAS SHOPPING BAGS INSTEAD OF PLASTIC ONES

USE LARGER CONTAINERS FOR FOODS AND REFILLS RATHER THAN LOTS OF LITTLE ONES

USE STORAGE BOXES OR BEESWAX WRAP INSTEAD OF CLING FILM



# I-SPY PLASTIC

Use this worksheet to complete your survey. Happy hunting!

	reusable plastic	single-use plastics	single-use plastics going to landfill
example items found in the kitchen	TUPPERWARE BOX DRINKS BOTTLE	MILK BOTTLE PLASTIC BAG SODA BOTTLE	MEAT TRAY YOGURT POT SWEET WRAPPER
how many items in total?			
length of plastic waste created in a <b>day</b>			
length of plastic waste created in a <b>week</b>			
length of plastic waste created in a <b>year</b>			

## EXTRA STUFF TO DO! (OPTIONAL)

At the end of one day, lay out all the plastic waste items you can find next to each other and, using a ruler or tape measure, the length of space they cover.

You've probably used over 1 metre of waste (around 5-7 items). That means in just one week your waste would be higher than the world's tallest giraffe (5.8m)!

Over a year, just your kitchen will have created enough plastic waste to reach higher than the Eiffel Tower and the Shard building in London!

How long would it take for your plastic waste to overtake the world's tallest building? Use this table to find out!

leaning tower, pisa	big ben, london	pyramids, egypt	the shard, london	eiffel tower, paris	empire state, new york	burj khalifa, dubai
57m	96m	139m	320m	324m	443m	828m

**notes:**