

Beware The Unflushables

Teacher's guidance notes

Overview

This ready-made primary school assembly is designed to be teacher-led and interactive. Children will discover how toilets save lives, the roles that Southern Water and WaterAid play locally and globally, and how to dispose of waste correctly to avoid blocking sewers with unflushables.

Timings

The PowerPoint and notes are adaptable for a 10 to 30-minute assembly.

Curriculum links

KS2 Science:

- The water cycle
- Impacts on living things and their habitats.

KS2 Geography:

- The water cycle
- The distribution of natural resources including water.

Eco-Schools links:

- Water
- Waste
- Global citizenship.



You will need

- Beware The Unflushables PowerPoint presentation
- Guidance notes in PowerPoint (you might like to print these)
- A3 print outs for flush it or bin it activity – only if you prefer this approach, see PowerPoint notes.

Instructions

Follow the guidance notes that accompany the PowerPoint slides to deliver this interactive assembly. It can be adapted to suit your needs and your audience.

You could:

- use real items for the flush it or bin it activity
- print out the slides for the flush it or bin it activity for pupils to hold up and sort
- show the short videos suggested in the PowerPoint notes
- use our quick experiment to demonstrate how toilet paper disintegrates in water, while wet wipes do not.

Quick experiment: paper vs wipes

1. Get two bottles and half fill them with water.
2. Place toilet paper in one and a wet wipe in the other. Make sure the lids are tightly on!
3. Shake each bottle vigorously for 20 seconds.
4. Hold the bottles up to show the paper in the bottles. Has the 'flushing action' broken it up into small pieces?
5. Slowly pour the contents of the bottle into a bucket. What do the children notice about the paper or flow of the water?

If you have more time in class:

- Test your pupils' understanding with our Flush it or bin it quiz? – southernwater.co.uk/media/default/PDFs/splash13.pdf
- Ask your pupils to tackle the Unflushables puzzles – southernwater.co.uk/primary
- Choose from lots of activities in our *Be a Water Hero* and *Waterwise* education packs – southernwater.co.uk/primary
- Check out WaterAid's lesson plans and activities: wateraid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/primary-resources.

