

Introduction



One of the problems facing seabirds is plastic pollution – whether large pieces of litter that block up their tummies, or tiny fragments that are eaten by their prey and make the penguins ill.

We are thousands of miles from the nearest wild penguins, but our actions still affect them (litter moves a long way on ocean currents!) and there are lots of special seabirds around the UK.

What can we do, to help penguins and other seabirds?

Can you write answers to the questions below?:

- ◆ **What do we use that is plastic?**
- ◆ **How does plastic get into the sea?**
- ◆ **Why is plastic in the sea a problem?**
- ◆ **What can we do to reduce the amount of plastic that gets into the sea?**
- ◆ **How could we collect plastic litter from the sea?**

Background Info for Parents

- ◆ Plastic litter in the sea can absorb pollution from the water, making the plastic even more dangerous to eat
- ◆ Plastic litter can enter the sea from beaches, down rivers, and from boats. It can include tiny rubber pellets blown off a 3G football pitch by the wind, drinks bottles and crisp packets, or huge fishing nets lost from a trawler
- ◆ Nurdles are the tiny plastic pellets used by industry to make plastic items – they are used all over the world, and they can now be found on most British beaches
- ◆ Penguins are playful and are drawn to bright and colourful objects in the sea
- ◆ Some penguins live near people – e.g. in South Africa, Peru and Brazil

Useful Websites

www.onelessbottle.org
www.mcsuk.org
www.sas.org.uk
www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org
www.nurdlehunt.org.uk

