



Banding together

This activity will help you to see the waterway like an animal, and to understand how a piece of plastic litter might cause an animal harm.

Time:

- 30 minutes

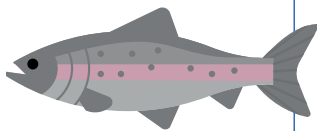
Resources:

- A rubber band

Individual or group activity



Think about the kinds of plastics that get into our waterways and seas. Depending on the shape and the size of the plastic item, different types of animals might be affected. For example, a small fish might be able to swim inside a plastic bottle and get stuck, while a bigger one wouldn't fit inside.



How many different items of plastic litter can you name?

What damage might it cause to have plastic in our waterways?

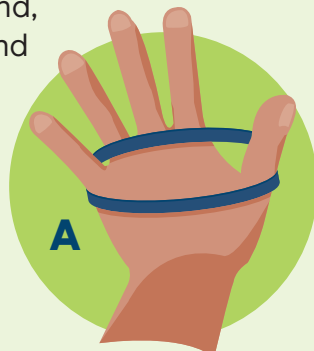
What kinds of animal might be affected by plastic litter?

How might they be affected?

Now we're going to feel what it's like for animals when they are affected by an item of plastic.

We're going to use a rubber band to represent all kinds of plastic litter that animals can get tangled in.

1. Pretend your hand is a bird or a fish that lives in your local waterway.
2. Take the band and put it across the back of your hand, using your thumb and little finger to hold it in place. Like in image A.



3. Try to remove the rubber band. Make sure you don't use your other hand or get help from anyone else – a fish or a bird wouldn't be able to do that.

How did it feel to try to get your hand free? Was it difficult or easy? If you want to, try this again, as in images B and C.

