

Experiment: Where is plastic pollution hiding in our oceans?

Learn where plastic can be found in our oceans and
how you can test the floating properties of different types of plastic.

Worksheet based on <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/science-is-wonderful/activities/where-is-plastic-pollution-hiding-in-our-oceans>

Things needed

- 5 glass jars (~300ml)
- 5 food colours
- 1 glass column (2L)
- ~1.5L Water
- 11 tbsp. of salt
- 2 table spoons
- 4 small pieces of paper
- assorted plastic pieces
- funnel with plastic straw/pipe

Instructions

- Fill all glass jars with ~ 300ml water
- Add the following amounts of ingredients to the according jars:

Glass	Colour	Amount of salt (tbsp.)	Position in glass column
1	red	0	
2	yellow	1	
3	green	2	
4	blue	3	
5	purple	4-5	



- Stir thoroughly until all salt is dissolved
- Pour **Glass 5** into the column
- Add paper pieces on top to avoid mixing of different layers while pouring
- Slowly pour **Glass 4** into the column using funnel with pipe/straw
- Slowly pour **Glass 3** into the column using funnel with pipe/straw
- Slowly pour **Glass 2** into the column using funnel with pipe/straw
- Slowly pour **Glass 1** into the column using funnel with pipe/straw
- Take the paper pieces off the top of the water
- **Input:** why are the colours not mixing?
- Put the assorted plastic pieces into the glass column
- **Input:**
Observe that different types of plastics will sink to a different layer.
Why is that happening?
What does it have to do with plastics in the ocean?