

# Campaign: Single-Use or Reusable?

## 4th Grade—Pollution You Can See



### GOAL

Students will identify opportunities to reduce waste at home and educate others about the environmental impact of single-use items.

### OBJECTIVES

- Identify 3 single-use items in their home and reusable alternatives for each
- Compose a call to action supported by at least one reason
- Create a project that communicates their call to action

### OUTCOME

Students will create a call to action promoting a reusable item, then communicate their call to action in an original project.

### GUIDING QUESTION

What are some ways I can use reusable items at home? How can I encourage the use of reusable items in my home and community?

### STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.7: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.  
ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems: Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth's

### GRADE

4th

### TIME

1.5 hours

## OVERVIEW

Throughout the unit, students have learned how single-use items contribute to marine debris. In this campaign, students apply this learning by identifying opportunities to reduce waste in their life. Students will identify single-use items in the home and research reusable alternatives to three of them. Then, they will create a call to action that promotes one of the reusable alternatives. Finally, students will create an original project that communicates their message to others.

## Materials

Pen or pencil  
Single-Use Scavenger Hunt- Student Worksheet  
Creating and Sharing a Message- Student Worksheet

## Instructions

1. Prior to this activity, students should:

- Watch the webinar OR video lesson
  - Participate in the video activity
  - Complete the activity book
2. Print copies of the worksheets (1 per student) and gather materials.
  3. Students should first complete the Single-Use Scavenger Hunt worksheet.
    - The worksheet begins with a 10-15 minute walk around the home looking for single-use items. When they find a single-use item, they will record it on their Single-Use Scavenger Hunt worksheet.
    - After completing the scavenger hunt, students select three items and research reusable alternatives. The results are recorded on the worksheet.
  4. Next, students use the Student Worksheet: Creating and Sharing a Message to craft their call to action.
  5. Once they are finished creating their call to action, students will choose a creative format to disseminate their message. Suggested formats are listed, but students are encouraged to choose a format that is meaningful to them.
    - Poster
    - Song
    - Letter
    - Comic strip
    - Video
    - Presentation
  6. Last, students should share their projects with their teacher and with an adult.

San Diego Coastkeeper would love to see your students' finished projects -- if you'd like to share them, email us at [projectswell@sdcoastkeeper.org](mailto:projectswell@sdcoastkeeper.org).

# Single-Use Scavenger Hunt

## Student Worksheet



The best way to stop marine debris is to make less trash. If we create less waste, then less will get into the ocean by accident. So what can we do to help?

The **single-use** items in our lives make a lot of trash. We've learned that a single-use item is something you use once and throw away, like a plastic fork. **Reusable** items are made to be used many times and can help us make less trash. A good example are utensils we use at home. When you're done eating dinner, do you throw away your fork? You probably wash it and use it again the next day. When we use fewer single-use items and more reusable items, we make a lot less trash. In this activity, you will look for ways you can switch to reusable items.

### Instructions

1. Take 10-15 minutes to walk around your home looking for single-use items. When you find a single-use item, write it in the boxes below.

#### Kitchen

Ideas: snack packaging, juice boxes, water bottles, plastic wrap, aluminum foil

#### Bathroom

Ideas: floss or dental picks, face wipes, cotton earbuds, tissue

#### Other

Ideas: Dryer sheets, grocery shopping bags, produce bags, cleaning wipes

2. Choose 3 of the single-use items that you want to research. Write them in the boxes of the left column below. Then, use the internet to search for reusable versions of each item and write them in the right column.

Instead of using a...	I can use a...
Plastic water bottle	Metal or glass water bottle

# Creating and Sharing a Message

## Student Worksheet



How can we get people to make less trash? Use the worksheet to create a message about why it is important to switch to reusable items. You will use one of the single-use items you found as an example. Then, you will create a project to share your message with others.

### Instructions

1. Choose one of the single-use items that you found and its reusable version that you researched.
  - The single-use item I am choosing is \_\_\_\_\_
  - The reusable version of this item that I found is \_\_\_\_\_

**State your opinion:** I think we should switch from using \_\_\_\_\_  
(single-use item) to \_\_\_\_\_ (reusable version).

**Reason:** We should switch because...

Supporting facts:

**Re-state your opinion:** In conclusion, I think we should switch from using \_\_\_\_\_  
(single-use item) to \_\_\_\_\_ (reusable version).

2. Complete the boxes below to create your message.
3. Once you have created your message, you can share it with others. Create something to communicate your message:
  - Poster

- Song
- Letter
- Comic strip
- Video
- Presentation
- If you would like to do something that is not listed here, check with your teacher first.

4. Share your project with your teacher and at least one other adult.