



Teacher Resource

# World Cleanup Day

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Where does Joseph live? Locate on a map.
2. What does Joseph do with the rubbish he picks up along beaches and mangroves?
3. What year did World Clean-Up Day start?
4. Which organisation recently added World Clean-Up Day to its calendar of significant days?
5. How did this story make you feel?

## Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN World Cleanup Day story. Ask students to record what they learnt about the issue. What questions do students have? Use the following questions to guide the discussion:

- What is the aim of World Cleanup Day?
- What would happen if no one cleaned up their rubbish?
- What impact does rubbish have on the environment? (*Landfill, increased greenhouse emissions, waterways become polluted, animals become tangled in or mistakenly eat rubbish found in the ocean*).
- What are some ways we can reduce the amount of waste we produce in our daily lives?
- How do clean environments improve the quality of life for everyone?
- How can participating in events like World Cleanup Day make a difference?



What did you learn from the story?

What questions do you have about the story?

### EPISODE 27

17<sup>th</sup> September 2024

#### KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about the impact rubbish has on the environment and explore ways they can take action to reduce waste.

#### CURRICULUM

##### Geography – Year 4

The use and management of natural resources and waste, and the different views on how to do this sustainably.

##### HASS – Year 4

Reflect on learning to propose actions in response to an issue or challenge and consider possible effects of proposed actions.

##### Science – Year 4

Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions.

##### Science – Years 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

##### Science – Year 7

Scientific knowledge has changed peoples' understanding of the world and is refined as new evidence becomes available.

## Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN World Cleanup Day story. Here are some words to get them started.

WASTE	LANDFILL	COMMUNITY
RECYCLE	ECOSYSTEM	POLLUTION

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). They will swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

## Activity: Reduce Waste – Take Action

Discuss with students what their school already does to reduce waste. For example, their school might have recycling programs, rubbish audits, or clean up days. Does your school have an Environmental Management Plan or team? In small groups, ask students to brainstorm how their school could improve what it already does to reduce waste.

- Make a list of new ways that your school could reduce the amount of waste it creates and new ways that you can deal with the waste it creates.
- Share and compare your ideas with the class.
- Choose 1 of your ideas to present to your SRC or the school leadership team.

Here are some suggestions:

- Nude food days.
- Audit rubbish created in one day. How much plastic waste is there?
- Contact your local council or other schools to find out what they are doing to reduce waste.
- Hold your own school's clean-up day.
- Start a school compost or worm farm.
- Hold a zero-waste day.



### Further Investigations

- How can consumers be persuaded to make better buying and recycling decisions? Come up with a list of incentives that you think would make a difference.
- Investigate other initiatives that help reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill. For example, banning plastic bags in supermarkets. What states/territories in Australia have already banned plastic bags in supermarkets? How does this initiative help the environment?

Organise a class cleanup of your school grounds or a local park as part of World Cleanup Day.

What other practical action can you take? Check out [the suggestions](#) on the Clean Up Australia website.

## Activity: Choose an activity

Working in pairs or small groups, students choose one of the following activities.

### What happens to plastic waste?

Find out what happens to the plastic you throw away by watching this [TedEd video – The lifecycle of a plastic bottle](#). Name three things you learnt watching the video. What was surprising?

### Campaign Poster

Create a campaign poster that encourages others to get involved in World Cleanup Day. Students can publish their posters using [Canva](#).

### Waste Hierarchy

What is the waste hierarchy? Brainstorm a list of actions or practices that can be done for each element of the waste hierarchy to reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill.

### Summary

Summarise the World Cleanup Day story in three sentences. Share your summary with another student. How did your summaries differ?

## BTN Kids Taking Action

Watch these BTN videos to help students learn more kids who are passionate about environmental issues and are taking action to make a difference.



[Plastic Ocean Campaigner](#)



[Straw No More Campaign](#)



[Plastic Bag Ban](#)



[War on Waste School](#)

## Useful Websites

- [World Cleanup Day 2024](#)
- [Clean Up Australia Day](#) – BTN
- [Clean Up Australia](#) - BTN
- [Schools Clean Up Day](#) – BTN