

# Lethal Litter 1

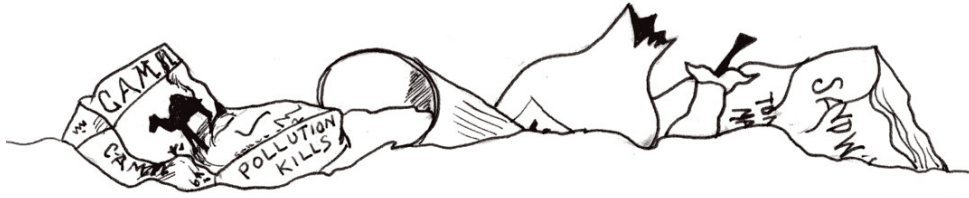
**Work with a partner.**

Litter in the seas and on our beaches is endangering our wildlife, including our seabirds.

These photographs were taken by Bobby Anderson, East Lothian Countryside Ranger. Look at them carefully and discuss what you think has happened and why.



## Lethal Litter 2



### Work with a partner

Litter ranging from plastic bottles to crisp packets, cotton buds to oil drums and nylon ropes to fishing nets, is spoiling our beaches and polluting our seas.

Litter is often left by careless visitors. The beach also becomes polluted when things that are flushed down the toilet break through the sewer screens and end up on the shore. A huge amount of waste comes from ships. Although there are strict laws in certain seas about the dumping of waste it is still a major problem.

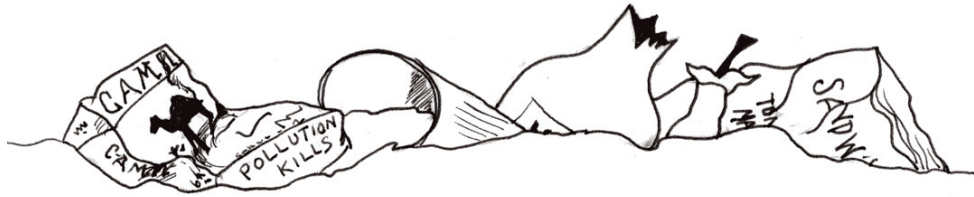
Litter is unsightly and poses potential hazards for wildlife. Use the live cameras to survey one of the islands or take a walk along the beach. Talk about the different types of litter that you can see.

Record your observations below:

- What is it? (Type of Litter)
- What material is it made of? (Material)
- How might it have got there? (Source)

Type of litter	Material	Possible Source

## Lethal Litter 3



**Litter on the beach lasts for a very long time. Some of it will still be around when we are not!**

- Find out how long various materials take to break down or degrade. Aluminium cans for example take 80-100 years. A banana skin can last up to 2 years. Record your findings in graph form.
- If people knew how long litter lasts and the threat that it poses to marine wildlife, they might be more careful. Find out more! Choose to investigate the problems caused by visitors, sewage or ships. Use your findings to
  - design a poster, leaflet or web page
  - give a short written or spoken report
  - write a newspaper article

Think carefully about **the audience** that you are trying to reach.

- Investigate packaging on foods and household products.
  - What material is it made of?
  - Is it biodegradable?
  - Is it necessary?
  - Can it be recycled?
  - Is there a better alternative?
  - Would people still buy the product?

**Create a display with your results.**

