



**CFE Level 1 (Age 5-8)**

## ***Captain Crankie & Seadog Steve*** **Learning Resources**

**Fun, creative activities inspired  
by Vivian French and Alison  
Bartlett's new picture book**

Resources created by Scottish Book Trust

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## About these resources

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These resources are full of cross-curricular activity suggestions to help you explore *Captain Crankie and Seadog Steve* with your students. Adapt and use as you see fit!

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## About Vivian French and Alison Bartlett

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Author, actor and storyteller Vivian French has written over 250 books and plays for children. Her hugely popular stories have won young fans around the world and in 2016 Vivian was awarded an MBE for services to literature, literacy, illustration and the arts.

Alison Bartlett's colourful and charming illustrations have brought picture books to life for young readers for over 20 years. While she was a student Alison's first illustration assignment was to illustrate *Oliver's Vegetables*, the first in Vivian's Oliver series! Alison and Vivian have gone on to create many beautiful and much loved picture books together.

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## Activities for *Captain Crankie and Seadog Steve*

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### **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**

Lit 1-09a, SOC 1-08a

Captain Crankie is upset that people in his village are littering and so he decides to collect the rubbish and throw it all into the sea. But although he can't see the rubbish any more it hasn't disappeared and Captain Crankie has to think of a better way of reducing litter in his village. This is a great book to get your pupils thinking about reducing, reusing and recycling waste rather than throwing things away. Here are some questions to ask your pupils while you are reading *Captain Crankie and Seadog Steve* together:

- Do you think it is a good idea for Captain Crankie to throw rubbish into the sea?
- What do you think will happen to all of the rubbish that Captain Crankie throws away?
- What should Captain Crankie do with the rubbish instead of throwing it into the sea?

You can use *Captain Crankie and Seadog Steve* as part of a project to reduce litter and waste in your school community and to encourage parents, pupils and staff to reuse or recycle their unwanted belongings

## **Hold a fix-it day**

HWB 1-14a, Lit 1-28a

People often throw broken things away which can be fixed, like bikes and electronics. You could hold a fix-it day in school where you invite someone with expert knowledge, for example a bike mechanic or electrician to come into school and share their skills with your pupils and wider school community.

To make this activity accessible for pupils of all ages, older children can pair up with younger pupils. The older pupils could attend a practical workshop and then film instructions to share with their 'buddies'. Or younger pupils could take photos of the process and together with their partners make illustrated guides to share with the rest of the school. You could also invite parents to attend a fix-it event with their children so that they can learn new skills together.

Take a look at this case study from Woodburn Primary School in Midlothian who invited bike mechanics from a local bike shop to run workshops with their pupils, teaching them how to fix punctures, check their brakes and change their tyres: [scottishbooktrust.com/blog/teachers-librarians/2016/08/books-and-bikes-linking-sport-and-literacy-at-woodburn-primary](http://scottishbooktrust.com/blog/teachers-librarians/2016/08/books-and-bikes-linking-sport-and-literacy-at-woodburn-primary)

The Restart Project is a London based social enterprise which encourages people to help reduce electronic waste through hands-on learning events. Take a look at The Restart Project's website for resources and ideas for holding your own fix-it day: <https://therestartproject.org/restartparty/>

## **Have a swap party**

HWB 1-13a

Something which one person no longer wants can be really useful for someone else. You can invite pupils, parents and teachers to take part in a swap party where they bring toys, games, books, clothes and other items which they no longer use and can swap them for something new (to them!).

## **Design posters and stickers**

EXA 1-03a, HWB 1-13a

Pupils can design posters to encourage others to recycle their rubbish. They can create stickers or badges to give out in the playground when they see other pupils or staff putting their recycling in the bin or picking up rubbish.

## **Make a gift out of recycled materials**

TCH 1-12a, HWB 1-05a, HWB 1-14a

Ask your pupils if they've ever given a gift to someone. How did they feel when they gave the gift? Explain that it can feel really good to give someone a present, and that everyone in the class is going to make a

present for someone else. This present won't be brand new – it will be made out of recycled materials.

- Cardboard tube animals: [www.freekidscrafts.com/cardboard-tube-animals/](http://www.freekidscrafts.com/cardboard-tube-animals/)
- Jam jar candle holders: [www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/easy-jar-candle-craft.html](http://www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/easy-jar-candle-craft.html)
- CD sun catchers: [www.education.com/activity/article/cd-sun-catcher/](http://www.education.com/activity/article/cd-sun-catcher/)

Ask pupils to split into pairs and explain to them that they are going to make gifts for each other. Encourage them to ask their partner what their favourite colour or animal is, depending on the craft you decide to do. Pupils can then make the gift thinking about what the other person would like and gift it to their partner to take home at the end of the day.

### **Learn About Sea Pollution**

Lit 1-07a, SOC 1-08a

Pollution in our seas and oceans is a huge problem and has a great impact on wildlife and the environment. In this topic your pupils will learn more about what causes sea pollution and conduct a simple experiment to learn about biodegradability.

To start with show your pupils this video from BBC Newsround about the causes and risks of sea pollution:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/17278897>

In this clip the presenter talks about different types of rubbish which are commonly found washed up on beaches. Rubbish on the beach can last for a very long time and in this task your pupils will find out how long different materials will take to break down.

Begin by explaining that the word biodegradable means how long it takes for a material like plastic to break down so that it no longer causes harm to the environment. Different materials take different times to biodegrade and some materials are not biodegradable at all.

Show your class a selection of recyclable and non-recyclable items. For example, a banana skin, a piece of paper, a plastic bottle, an aluminium drinks can, a plastic shopping bag, a cardboard box, Styrofoam packaging, a crisp packet, a piece of cotton fabric (e.g. t-shirt fabric), a glass jam jar.

In groups or as a whole class ask your pupils to complete a table with the following information about each item:

- Item
- What is it made from?
- How long do you guess it takes to biodegrade? (Days/ weeks/years)
- Amount of time to biodegrade

Once your class has guessed how long each item takes to biodegrade you can fill out the fourth column in the table and see how close the pupils came to guessing the right answer. See appendix 1

## **Biodegradability Experiment**

SOC 1-08a

Pupils can have a go at this simple experiment to learn about the biodegradability of different items. You are going to bury small samples of the different items listed above and leave them for three weeks. After this time your pupils can dig up the samples and look at them closely to see if the materials have begun to biodegrade.

You will need:

- Spades or trowels
- 100 x 100 mm pieces of the materials you will be investigating
- Coloured marker pens
- Sheets of acetate with 100mm x 100mm square copied onto it
- Whiteboard pens

Decide in advance where you will be able to dig small holes and leave them undisturbed for three weeks. Divide your class into groups and give each group a different sample or set of samples to bury. Remember to mark where the samples are buried so you can find them again!

After three weeks your pupils can dig up the samples and carefully bring them to the classroom. Ask them to place the sheet of acetate over their sample, making sure that the sample is within the marked square. With the whiteboard pen pupils can then draw around the outline of the sample to see how much it has degraded during the three-week period.

Ask pupils to compare their results and group the most biodegradable items and least biodegradable items together. You can then show your pupils findings in a wall chart or visual display.

## **Sing Some Sea Shanties**

EXA 1-16a

The Bookbug explorer CD has lots of songs and rhymes about life on the high seas. You can listen to all of the songs and download the lyrics to teach to pupils and sing together here:

[scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/bookbug-pirate-cd](http://scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/bookbug-pirate-cd)

## **Further resources for learning about sea pollution and reducing waste**

- Marine Conservation Society [www.mcsuk.org/coolseas/](http://www.mcsuk.org/coolseas/)
- Scottish Seabird Centre  
<https://seabird.org/learning/resources/resources/20/77/180>
- Eco Schools Scotland [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainable-development-education/eco-schools/ten-topics/litter/](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainable-development-education/eco-schools/ten-topics/litter/)
- Eco Tales <https://ecotales.co.uk/schools-2/>

## If you and your class loved *Captain Crankie and Seadog Steve*

Lit 1-11a

Take a look at these book lists for ideas of what to read next:

- Nine Books About Our Environment  
[scottishbooktrust.com/reading/book-lists/9-books-about-our-environment-3-7](http://scottishbooktrust.com/reading/book-lists/9-books-about-our-environment-3-7)
- Ten Books All About the Sea [scottishbooktrust.com/reading/book-lists/under-the-sea-3-7](http://scottishbooktrust.com/reading/book-lists/under-the-sea-3-7)

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## Appendix 1

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Item	What is it made from?	How long do you guess it takes to biodegrade? (weeks/months/years)	Amount of time to biodegrade
Banana skin	Natural		2 years
Piece of paper	Paper		1 month
Drinks bottle	Plastic		450 years
Drinks can	Aluminium		350 years
Shopping bag (biodegradable)	Plastic		10 – 20 years
Cardboard box	Cardboard		5 months
Styrofoam packaging	Polystyrene		500 years
Crisp packet	Plastic		450 years
T-shirt	Cotton		6 months
Jam jar	Glass		1 million years











Book	Front cover	Blurb	Opening line