



Credit: Getty Images

All washed up

This creative writing activity introduces the idea that there are tides, which behave in a predictable way, and that children could use them to their advantage.

You will need

- Pencils
- Paper
- Bottles

Steps

1

Introduce the idea that children have just been washed up on the shore of an island. Decide how you got there. Was it a shipwreck? What has been washed up with you?

2

What else did the tide bring in? Supplies? Survival equipment?

3

Discuss how you can use the tides to aid your escape.

4

Write a message to put it in a bottle so that it could be swept out to sea by the tide.

5

Display the bottles and messages on a washing line in the classroom or swap bottles so children can read each other's messages and rescue each other.

Analysis/ discussion

Why do people write messages in bottles and throw them out to sea?

Dramatise your story step by step and record the adventure in a diary.

This activity could be coupled with reading related stories, e.g. Robinson Crusoe, Lord of the Flies, Treasure Island, Captain Pugwash, etc.

Look at the information on harnessing energy from waves and the movement of the tides in the 'Key points' section of this resource to find out how we can use the ocean – a source of renewable energy – to make electricity.