



BLUE FLAG

2011 EDITION

**ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION ACTIVITIES BOOK**

**FOUNDATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**



The Blue Flag is a programme from the Foundation for Environmental Education

The Blue Flag Programme is sponsored internationally by:



Corona Extra

<http://www.coronasavethebeach.org>



Beach-Tech

<http://www.beach-tech.com>



Shipmate

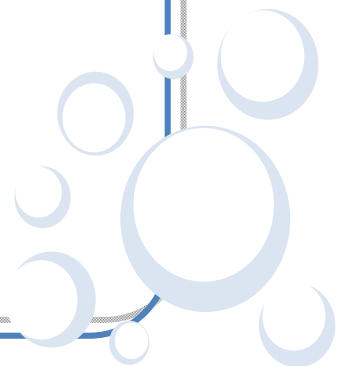
<http://www.shipmate.nl>

Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is an international organisation that has been promoting environmental education for sustainable development since 1981. FEE is an umbrella organisation with member organisations in around 60 countries around the world. (www.fee-international.org)

FEE is active in environmental education mainly through five programmes:

- Blue Flag (www.blueflag.org)
- Eco-Schools (www.eco-schools.org)
- Young Reporters for the Environment (www.youngreporters.org)
- Learning about Forests (www.leaf-international.org)
- Green Key (www.green-key.org)

Through formal school education, training of staff, and awareness raising, FEE's programmes involve people of all ages and nationalities.



WELCOME TO THE FIRST BLUE FLAG ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

Why this brochure?

This brochure has been created for two main purposes: to help beach and marina managers to organise environmental education activities which fit with their goals and capacities; and to share good ideas throughout the Blue Flag network.

What kind of Environmental Education?

Environmental Education offers a broad framework that encompasses a number of different ideas and approaches to learning in, for or about the environment, in pursuit of sustainable development. The purpose of this guide is not to debate the different definitions, but to encourage a shared acceptance of the diversity of learning approaches. This introduction, therefore, offers a brief description of environmental education approaches and offers a simple classification to help users to navigate their way through the different activities and worksheets.

One way of understanding environmental education is to see it as education that engages learners with nature, encourages them to ask questions about the environment, and engage with environmental change. This means that environmental education is not just concerned with spreading messages about the environment, but it also provides opportunities to enhance learner understandings, question environmental problems and take action for environmental change in pursuit of a sustainable development.

Therefore, the classification we offer is tentative and open to change.

- Information-seeking or enquiry:

Learners are encouraged to ask questions about the environment and gather information or materials. This might be through surveys, counting, collecting, or measuring different parts of the beach, for example.

- Awareness-raising:

Awareness-raising is an educational activity focused on raising a learner's awareness about environmental problems, in the HOPE that they will do something as a response. An example might be an information campaign.

- Action-oriented:

Action-oriented learning is an approach based on environmental change and improvement. The learners take action on a particular environmental problem and try out one or more solutions with the aim of achieving a better environment for all. A typical example is a litter pick.

- Contact with nature / experiential / exploratory

Experiential approaches to environmental education are often based outside, in the particular environment in question, and seek to inspire learners to care for the environment by encouraging contact with nature and exploration, usually around a particular theme, such as 'the sea shore'.

How is this brochure organised?

As you will see, the different categories overlap and are not mutually-exclusive, hence a learning sequence might actually address all four types of environmental education activity in pursuit of a sustainable development.

The same tagging system is used throughout the document, each activity answering the same questions: target group, theme, method, communication, tips, etc.

The activity sheets are organised by theme: *Biodiversity, Marine World, Marina, Special Events, and Waste*. It must be noted that although a specific "Marina" category has been included, the activities under other categories may easily be adapted for a marina.

Where to find this brochure?

You can download this brochure (fully or by theme) on the Blue Flag international website:
www.blueflag.org

Trash Art Exhibition

Target group: Children

Type: Action Oriented

Duration: 5 hours

Country: Greece

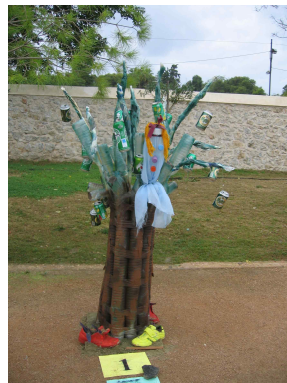
- **METHOD:** As introduction to the activity, you may explain what the biodiversity is and why it is important. Give a few examples of how animals and plants are affected by our activities and how everyone is responsible for their protection. Stress also the need that we should reduce our waste and definitely try to recycle what cannot be re-used.

As Trash Art is very popular among youngsters, you could ask the children to express themselves in a creative way, by making a plant or an animal that inspires them. They should use useless items they may have found at their home.

Bring pictures, drawings, statues, etc that might serve as models for the production of the Trash artworks.

Ask the children to choose an animal or a plant and make a sculpture of it with the useless items.

Once their sculpture is ready, the children might want to paint it with colours.



- **MATERIAL:** Useless items, water paint and paint-brushes.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local handcraft shop can give you the paint and paint-brushes for free or with a discount.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Advertise on the information board, at schools.
- **TIPS:** Remember to use water colour paint so that if the children stain themselves the parents can wash the clothes.

Puppet show

Target group: primary school groups

Type: Awareness raising

Duration: 40 + 40 minutes

Country: Ireland

- **METHOD:** “Bui Bolg” is an Irish street theatre company which was commissioned to create the materials for the puppet show and create the script. Bui Bolg is paid to perform the show by Wexford County Council. Wexford County Council owns the show but has given permission for the puppet show to be performed in other Local Authority areas.

The characters in the puppet show are ‘The Litter Warden’ and ‘Fox’. The Litter Warden has a big prop Green Bin which the fox is inside (which is unknown to the Litter Warden until he reveals himself during the puppet show).

The show starts by the Litter Warden telling the children about what he does and why they shouldn’t litter. As the fox is introduced the children and the Litter Warden must pass this information on to the fox and tell him not to litter.

Summary of Storyline:

‘The Litter Warden’ introduces himself and begins to talk about the work he does in Wexford. But he realises he has left his litter picker when he goes off to find it. At this point the fox jumps out of the bin and introduces himself to the children, but asks them not to tell anybody that he is there. He hides again as the Litter Warden returns. As the Litter Warden starts talking the fox starts throwing rubbish out of the bin, but the Litter Warden is unaware of the fox living in the bin so he blames the children. After several of the children tell him why they wouldn’t litter he eventually realises there is a fox in the bin. The Litter Warden asks the fox to get out of the bin but he refuses. The Litter Warden explains to the fox and the children why it was wrong to throw rubbish. Then the fox tells a story of how his friend ‘Billy the Rabbit’ got injured because of litter. By telling how the fox has learnt not to litter he encourages all the children in the audience not to litter.

Both the fox and the Litter Warden are acted out by members of the Bui Bolg, Wexford Street Theatre Company. One of the actors is in the bin controlling the fox; this actor also has a microphone so is able to do the voice for the fox. Both actors are very energetic and the show is humorous as well as informative.

Puppet show



- **MATERIAL:** Bui Bolg was commissioned to create the materials for the show. These include the prop bin, fox puppet, microphone and sound equipment for fox voice and Litter Wardens costume.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Wexford County Council already partnered with Bui Bolg, Wexford Street Theatre Company
- **COMMUNICATION:** Advertised in Local Newspaper, Wexford County Council Website, Blue Flag Notice board
- **TIPS:** To reduce the cost involved this could be run as a secondary school drama competition. To write and perform a play/drama with an environmental message for beach users.

Artworks from recyclable materials

Target group: children and teachers

Type: Awareness raising

Duration: 1 – 2 hours

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** In the effort to pass the message *REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE*, children are invited to express themselves artistically by using used recyclable materials, with the help of their teacher. The objects to be created should be exhibited in an art exhibition which could be visited by their parents and the public. The exhibition could be held in the Town Hall, the Town Cultural Centre, Museum, or in a Hotel Conference Centre.

Object Making

Beautiful objects can be made from different used recyclable materials. Any recyclable material could be useful for this purpose. Children guided by a teacher make various objects and paint them in order to exhibit them in an art exhibition.



- **MATERIAL:** Card board, glue, plastic bottles, coloured paper, paints, and any other used recyclable materials.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local stationary shops.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Invitation letters to schools, and placing info on the activities on the BF notice boards. Advert in newspapers to advertise the programme
- **TIPS:** Organize a committee consisting of a representative from the Town Council, a teacher of Art, and three children to go around the art exhibition and decide which three artworks should be awarded a prize, as the competition element is very challenging for children.

Campaigns

Target group: Adults

Type: Awareness Raising

Duration: 5 hours

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** As one of the objectives of the Blue Flag Programme is responsible Waste Management, a Conference tackling issues such as Waste, Obligations and Possibilities for Waste Management could be an effective way of raising awareness to the public about the need for Responsible Waste Management.

The topics to be presented in the Conference could be:

- Waste in solid state (household waste, batteries, appliances)
- Waste in liquid state (sewage treatment)
- Legislation, Protection of the Environment, Protection and Safety for the Citizens
- Waste Management
- Local Government (Responsibilities, Problems)
- Raising awareness to the public (Environmental Education Programmes)

After the presentation of each topic invite the rest of the audience to join in a discussion that should follow the presentation, in which viewpoints might be put forward and questions might be set to be answered by the specialist who has presented the relevant topic.

A possible Visit to a Waste Management plant, after the presentation, might complete the participants' view, in point of what has been tackled.



- **MATERIAL:** Paper for official invitations.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** University professors, specialists from the local government.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Advertise on the local press, TV channels, webpage, information board.
- **TIPS:** To ensure a broad participation of the public, send invitations by e-mail to as many decision-makers and citizens as possible.

The first version of this brochure has been produced by a Blue Flag working group composed of Blue Flag National Operators, Environmental Education experts and the International Blue Flag Coordination.

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Blue Flag International Coordinator: Sophie Bachet

Foundation for Environmental Education
c/o Danish Outdoor Council
Scandiagade 13
2450 Copenhagen SV
Denmark

Tel +45 33 28 04 10

Fax +45 33 79 01 79

Skype: blue.flag.coordination

Mail: coordination@blueflag.org