

MARINE GIANT

Lizzie's favourite animal is the huge whale shark, which can grow to more than 12 metres long.



Plastic waste packed for processing.

Lizzie's tips to cut plastic

When Lizzie spoke to *The Week Junior* she had some top tips on how people can reduce plastic use, and make sure the plastic they use can be properly recycled. "In supermarkets, ask your parents not to buy items with plastic packaging you do not need. Have reusable shopping bags instead of single-use plastic ones. At home, make sure you sort your waste correctly and wash your plastic because it will make it more likely to be recycled."



Use your own bags for packing groceries.

A campaign to beat plastic waste

A nine-year-old girl is asking the UK Government to ban the practice of sending plastic waste to poorer countries. Lizzie started her petition on 12 January and, at the time *The Week Junior* went to press, more than 89,000 people had signed it.

The UK is the second largest producer of plastic per person in the world, after the US. Around two thirds of the UK's plastic waste is sent to other countries, where it can be recycled more cheaply. However, some of the countries may not be able to recycle all the different types of plastic they receive. Plastic that cannot be recycled

is sometimes burned or dumped in waterways, where it washes into the ocean and can harm animals. In 2019, the Government said it would ban

the sending of all plastic waste to poorer countries, but it is now looking again at the situation. The Government insists there are rules in place to make sure it is done properly.

Lizzie read about the problem of shipping plastic waste to poorer countries in *The Guardian* newspaper. "I feel really disappointed and sad when I hear about animals being tangled in plastic," she told *The Week Junior*.



Plastic campaigner Lizzie.

"I had to do something about it." She loves the ocean and wants to become a marine biologist (a scientist who studies life in the sea). Lizzie also admires the Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg. "She started campaigning when she was a child, and she can make world leaders listen to what she has to say."

Politicians in the UK are starting to listen to Lizzie and she is due to meet her Member of Parliament to discuss the topic. She is confident that young people can make a difference. "I think we can definitely improve the state of our planet," she said. "I feel there's loads of room to change how we behave and protect our environment." If you would like to read more about Lizzie's petition, you can find it here at tinyurl.com/TWJ-Lizzie



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

Even in the middle of a cold and wet winter, it's still a great idea to get out into nature and explore. Scientists say it's good for both body and mind, but remember that under current lockdown rules, you should stay close to home.

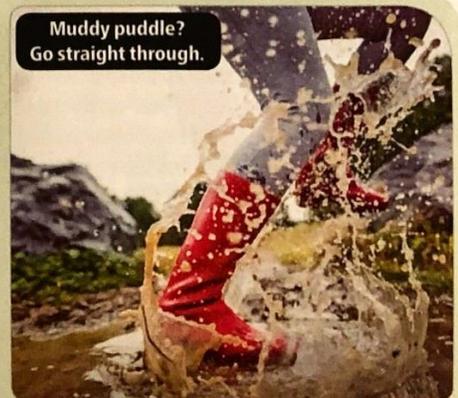
Not everyone lives near open countryside but there are still plenty of ways to enjoy nature, even in urban areas. Find green

ENJOY A NATURE WALK

spaces, let the winter sun shine on your face, study the patterns in the bark of a tree, spot discarded feathers and see if you can identify the type of bird they came from.

If you can get out in the countryside, go prepared for mud – it's better (and more fun) to squelch through churned-up areas rather than damaging natural plants or crops by trampling them as you try to keep clean.

DID YOU KNOW?
There are more than 70 species of tree in the UK.



Muddy puddle? Go straight through.