



This activity is the chance for students to share their knowledge about ways to cut out single-use plastics. These fun-to-draw portraits with speech balloons will inspire the whole school community to take up the [Plastic-Free for a Week Challenge!](#)

This Earth Rangers Classroom Activity Starter will get you and your class started on your next activity. Our “build-your-class-activity” tool will give you ideas – you take it from there!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Recognize that celebrating and sharing ways in which people are cutting out single-use plastics contributes to environmental change

DURING THIS ACTIVITY, STUDENTS WILL:

- Draw portraits of themselves or others sharing how they are decreasing their use of single-use plastics
- Apply learning about symmetry, line, shape, colour, texture and value
- Share their portraits with the larger community
- Encourage others to cut out single-use plastics

MATERIALS:

- Art materials ([see suggestions below](#))
- Sample Plastic-Free Portrait



GRADE LEVEL: K-3, 4-6

**SAMPLE
PLASTIC-FREE PORTRAIT**

Set it up

1: PICK A PORTRAIT SUBJECT

- self
- peer
- staff member
- community leader
- celebrity
- family member

2: PREPARE FOR THE PORTRAIT

If students are drawing other students, staff members, or community members, they will need:

- a good photo of the face of the subject and permission to use it, or a time to complete a sketch face-to-face
- a quote from the subject about how they are cutting out single-use plastics
- OPTIONAL: a photo of the alternative the subject is using (e.g. their reusable cup, their lunch containers, etc.)

3: SELECT ART MATERIALS

The type of paper and drawing materials depend on the size and style of portrait.

You could provide students with:

- face templates: a cardboard cut-out of a basic face shape that students can trace onto their paper
- pre-made speech balloons

4: PICK A LOCATION FOR THE COMPLETED PORTRAITS

- one or more bulletin boards
- an entire wall
- a slideshow for an assembly or a digital display (e.g. in the school lobby)
- a yearbook

Start it up

5: GET READY

You may wish to use a video to teach your students how to draw portraits or [self-portraits](#). Here are just a few possibilities:

- [How to Draw a Self-Portrait](#) (8 minutes) (Grades K-6)
- [How to Draw a Face for Kids](#) (3 minutes) (Grades 4-6)
- [Romero Britto-Inspired Self-Portraits](#) (27 minutes) (Grade 1+)

6: DRAW

There is no one right way to make a plastic-free portrait, however, for inspiration, here is an example of a [Plastic-Free Portrait](#).

Keep it up

7: PLASTIC-FREE FOR A WEEK CHALLENGE

Changing our relationship with single-use plastic starts by changing our habits. In [this challenge](#), students try to adopt as many plastic-free habits as possible.

8: ADD EXCITEMENT

- [The Plight of Plastic](#): Learn more about how you can reduce your use of single-use plastics
- [Eco-Activity: Bee-ing Eco With Beeswax](#): Learn how to make your own wrap instead of using plastic wrap.

9: ADD AN EARTH RANGERS MISSION FOR HOME

- Mission: [More Plastics More Problems](#)

Resources

[How Long 'Til it's "Gone" Quiz](#) (Earth Rangers)

This interactive Earth Rangers quiz gives students the chance to think about how long it takes for plastics to breakdown into microplastics.

[Journey of a Plastic Bag](#) (Earth Rangers)

Plastic bags might seem convenient, but they have a lasting impact on the environment. This Earth Rangers info sheet outlines the environmental cost of a plastic bag.

[Plastic-Free For A Week Challenge](#) (Earth Rangers)