



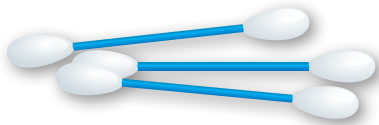
Name Date

Don't Flush It!

Anything that's flushed down the toilet travels through sewer pipes and may one day end up in the ocean.

Items such as wet wipes and cotton buds can block sewers.

If they reach the ocean, animals may eat them thinking they are food.



Most cotton buds have plastic stems.



Many kinds of wet wipes contain plastic.

These objects will not rot away, but will float in the ocean for years and years!

To see the Marine Conservation Society's fantastic wet wipe monster, go to: <http://www.wetwipesturnnasty.com>



Only three things should be put down the toilet. They all begin with P.
What are they?

(The answer is at the bottom of the page.)

Answer: Only pee, poo and paper should be flushed down the toilet.



Name Date



Do the Shake Test!

Why do you think it's OK to flush toilet paper down the toilet?

Let's investigate!

Gather your equipment:

- An empty jar with a lid (for example, a coffee or pasta sauce jar)
- Water
- 2 sheets of toilet paper
- A wet wipe



1. Fill the jar with water.

2. Place the sheets of toilet paper in the jar.

What do you think will happen if you shake the jar for 30 seconds?

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3. Shake the jar for 30 seconds.

What do you observe has happened? Record your results.

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4. Empty the jar down the toilet.

5. Now refill the jar with water and put the wet wipe in the jar.

What do you think will happen now if you shake the jar for 30 seconds?

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Name Date

6. Test out your ideas by shaking the jar for 30 seconds.

What do you observe has happened? Record your results.

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(Now put the wet wipe into a bin. Don't flush it down the toilet.)

Why do you think it's OK to flush toilet paper but not wet wipes?

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(There are some answers and ideas at the bottom of the page.)

Answers: Toilet paper is designed to break up into tiny pieces. This allows it to travel through sewers without causing blockages. Most toilet paper is biodegradable because it is made of wood from trees. This means it will rot away in the ocean. Wet wipes don't easily break into tiny pieces, however. Also, the plastic fibres in some wet wipes will remain in the ocean, just breaking up into smaller and smaller plastic pieces.