

The toothpaste challenge!

Use this fun toothpaste challenge to demonstrate to your young people how hard it is to get something back once you have posted it online.

(Offline activity)

Suitable for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network

You will need:

- A paper plate for each group
- A tube of toothpaste for each group
- Optional: coffee stirrers or glue spreaders or pipe cleaners

Instructions

1. Give each group a paper plate and a tube of toothpaste.
2. Tell each group that they should squeeze all of the toothpaste out of the tube until they can't get any more out of it.
3. The group should then try and get the toothbrush back into the tube. They can use coffee stirrers, pipe cleaners, a spoon, glue spreaders or whatever other items you think may be appropriate.
4. After 5 minutes stop the group. Ask them how easy it was to get the toothpaste back into the tube once they had squeezed it out.
5. Explain to the group that this is similar to what can happen online. Once you put something out in the open it can be hard to get back and if you are not careful it can spread into a mess.
6. It is important to think before sharing anything online.

TIME NEEDED

10 minutes

**THIS ACTIVITY
LINKS WITH THE
FOLLOWING
BADGE**



Digital Citizen Badge

OUTCOMES

The young people will have a better understanding of how online information spreads and how once a piece of information is out in the open, it is impossible to control or get back.