

Beach Detective

May 2003

Newsletter

Detective House, New Road, Seamount, SE10 9LU.

Welcome to the latest copy of Beach Detective. As you can imagine I spend a lot of my time on the beach. Some people may think that this is boring but not me. How can you get bored when everything around you is always changing and the sea is always bringing you gifts? You have certainly kept me busy this month. I have been finding out about everything from rubber ducks to giant bird eggs!

All change

There are many things which change on the beach. The sun makes colours fade. The wind can change a calm sea into a rough sea. The sea and the sand can change a broken piece of glass into a smooth and shiny jewel.



Gifts from the sea

Everyone expects to find shells, seaweed and pebbles on the beach. Which of the following objects do you think have been washed up on beaches around the world?

- 29,000 yellow rubber ducks



- 2,000 new trainers

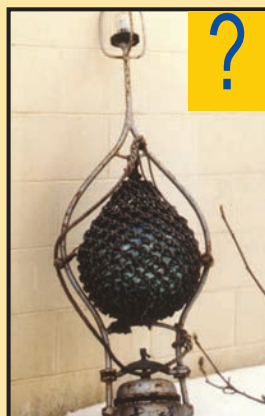


- 3 million plastic animals and bricks



Well, the truth is that all of these things have been found on beaches in the last ten years.

Can you help?



I wonder if any of you know what these unusual objects are?

If you think you know what they are, write to me here at the newsletter offices or send me an email at

beachdetective@qca.org.uk

More unusual objects



In Depth



This month we are going to take an **In Depth** look at an unusual object which was found on a beach in Australia. It was big enough to hold eight ostrich eggs, or one hundred and eighty chicken eggs! What was it? It was an ELEPHANTBIRD EGG. I wanted to find out more so I put my detective hat on and started investigating. I got in touch with my beach detective friends. I asked for clues about this mysterious piece of beach treasure. **Here is what I found out:**

- Elephantbirds lived on an island, called Madagascar, up until 300 years ago. Sadly, they died out because people hunted them.
- Elephantbirds were three metres tall. They looked a bit like a giant ostrich. They were the heaviest birds ever to have lived. As they were so heavy, they were unable to fly.
- The Elephantbirds used to bury their eggs in the sand. The eggs stayed in the sand for hundreds of years until heavy rains washed them out to sea. The sea then carried them past South Africa all the way to Australia.



The Egg's Journey

Next time you take a stroll along the beach, keep your eyes open: you never know what you may find!