

Lesson Summary

Pollution is flooding into the ocean each day, from toxic waste to various plastics, creating a hazard for all marine wildlife. In this lesson we discuss the issue of pollution, how it ends up in the ocean and the impact on marine wildlife.



Activities

These activities are designed to enhance and expand on the key learnings from the Polluting the Ocean lesson. They can be used as part of the Lesson or assigned as research or projects.

English

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, reasoning, advocate, reflect and explanation.

Activity 1

Ask students to write an essay or story on one of the following topics in respect to ocean pollution:

“The benefits of plastic to society, does not outweigh the environmental impacts”

Or

“The ocean was once blue, but now.....”

Activity 2

The Plastic Ocean advertisement – watch and discuss what the advert means. How does it make you feel? What key message does it convey?

Ask students to write their own advert or message to create awareness.

The Plastic Ocean: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYPeu_fdWas

Geography

LEARNING SKILLS – Research, investigate, analyse, interpretation, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

Select a country and determine how rubbish or chemical pollution ends up in ocean – follow the geography of a county to see how pollution travels long distances across land or down waterways.

Create a presentation to show your findings.

Activity 2

Choose an ocean area (North Pacific, South Pacific, North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Indian ocean) and create a map showing the flow of ocean currents.

Show how debris moves around the ocean.

Identify in which other countries the debris could end up.

History

LEARNING SKILLS – Research, interpretation, communicate, reasoning, explanation and critical thinking.

Activity 1

Research the history of plastics.

Why was it created?

When did single use items like takeaway bags and containers come into use?

Look at what different types of packaging have been used over the last 50 years.

POLLUTING THE OCEAN LESSON ACTIVITY SHEET

TEACHING RESOURCE: PRIMARY SCHOOL (Age 8 – 11)

Science

LEARNING SKILLS – Investigate, research, analyse, creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

We know that plastic pollution is a major issue impacting marine wildlife and the ocean. Investigate one of the following:

- Why does marine wildlife not understand plastic is not food? Which items can be mistaken for food?
- What are the impacts of pollution on benthic habitats? Which type of pollution has the most impact?

Activity 2

Design a way to remove plastic, or another type of pollution, from the ocean without impacting marine wildlife or habitats.

Draw or create a model of your device.

Social Science

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, reasoning, advocate, reflect, explanation and global citizenship.

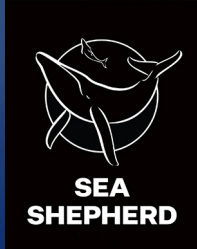
Activity 1

Pollution is a major issue for the ocean and marine wildlife. Investigate ways that can help reduce pollution.

Write a plan on how you will create your change and how you will share your message.

Below is a list of questions you may use to get started:

- What are your local laws on recycling, single use plastics? How can these be improved?
- How could you stop plastic reaching the ocean?
- What laws could the government create to reduce plastic pollution in the ocean?
- How can we replace single use plastics or harmful chemical items?
- What alternatives are there to plastic, with similar characteristics?



POLLUTING THE OCEAN LESSON ACTIVITY SHEET

TEACHING RESOURCE: PRIMARY SCHOOL (Age 8 – 11)

Arts / Media

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, reasoning, advocate and explanation.

Activity 1

Create a collage, picture, poster or infographic that explains the impacts of plastics or other pollution on marine wildlife.

YOUR FEEDBACK

We value your feedback and would be pleased to hear your thoughts about this lesson and activities. Any comments, suggestions or requests for further information can be sent to education@seashepherdglobal.org