

BBC Teach:

Blue Planet Live Lesson



BBC Teach

Live Lessons



Watch the [BBC Teach Blue Planet Live Lesson](#) with your class.



Our Beautiful Blue Planet

Fascinating Facts

1

On Earth, there's more marine life than people.



2

All of our oceans are connected. Sharks are sea creatures that don't stay in one place. They swim around and move to different oceans.

3

In the seas and rivers, there are lots of tiny organisms called **plankton**. Lots of living things eat these plankton, but when mobula rays feed on them, the plankton lights up, turning fluorescent.



4

Plankton are really small, but are a really important part of the Earth's oxygen supply. All of the plankton, seaweeds and sea grasses make as much oxygen as the forests and grassy plains on Earth.

What Are We Doing?

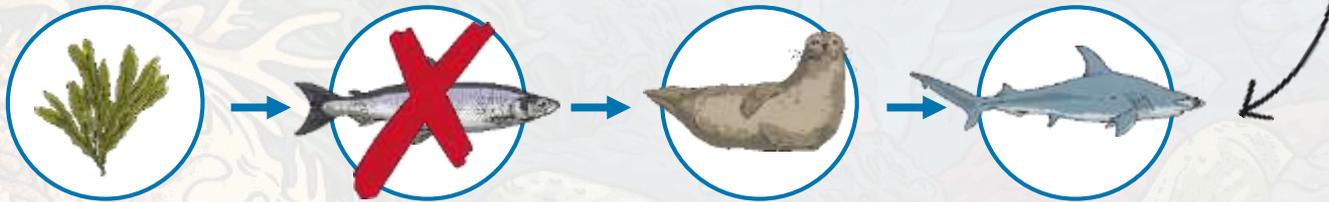
As humans, we are causing harm to our blue planet in these ways:

Overfishing

This is when too many fish are caught. If people catch too many fish, this affects many living things in the ocean.

Let's Look!

Living things all need to survive. Some creatures that live in the ocean eat plants, others eat different living things. This is called a food chain. If one part of the food chain is broken (like a type of fish being removed from the ocean by overfishing), then other things may not survive because they won't have food.



What Are We Doing?

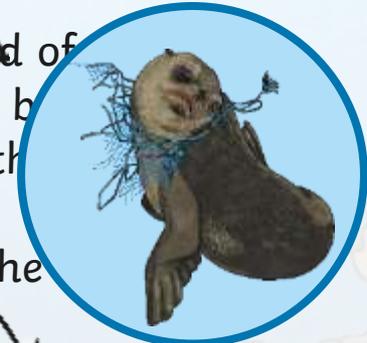
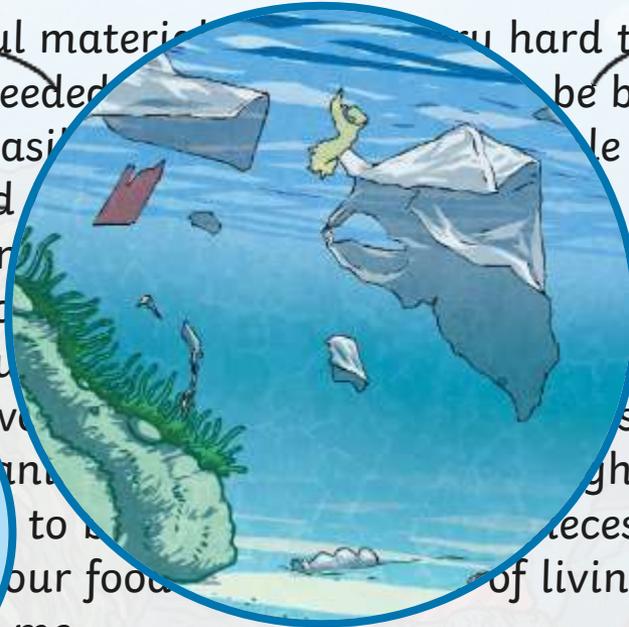
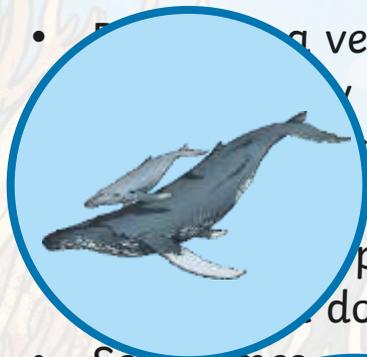
Plastic pollution

This is when plastic gets into the seas and pollutes, or harms, the living things.



Let's Look!

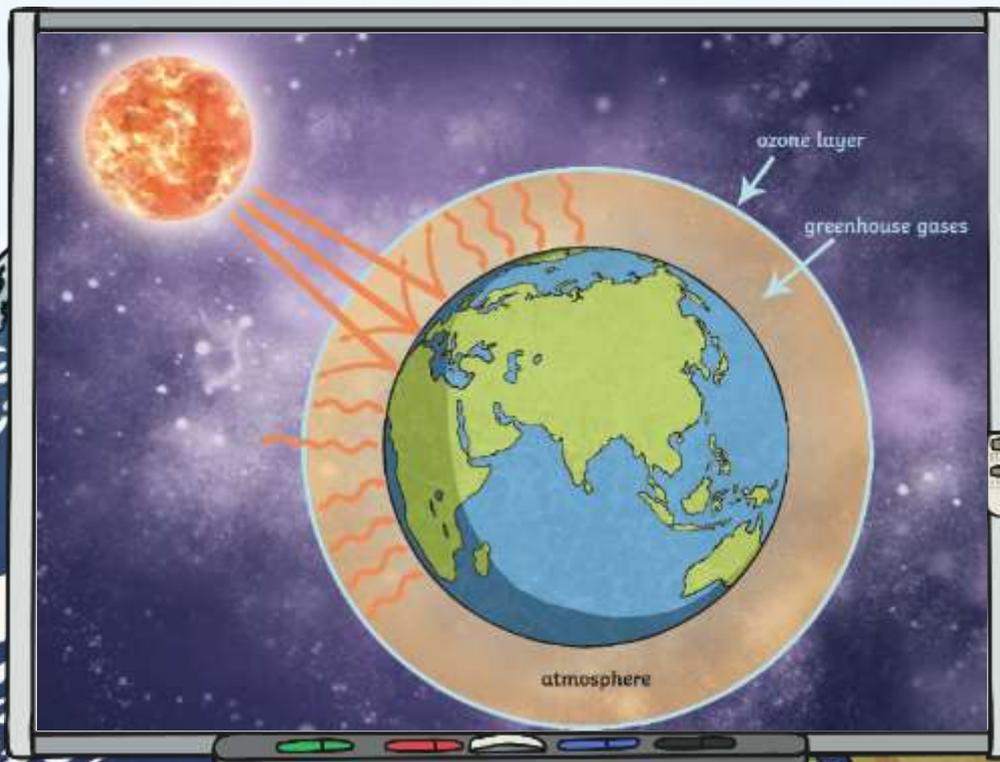
When a person eats a prawn which has swallowed plastic, that person has also eaten some of the plastic.



- Plastic is a very useful material but it is very hard to get rid of. It is not needed and it can be burnt or buried. It is often used as easily as paper and people throw it away in the rubbish bin. Plastic in the sea can harm the dolphins and other animals.
- Sometimes animals eat plastic for food. If a whale eats plastic, it will die because it won't have enough room in its stomach.
- Plastic is also in our food. If you eat a piece of living creature that has eaten plastic, you have also eaten the plastic.

We Need to Stop!

When these carbon dioxide levels rise up into the air, they get trapped in the thin layer of gas that surrounds the Earth from the Sun (called the **atmosphere**) gases. As the Sun's rays come in, they get trapped by the atmosphere and heat the Earth. This is called **global warming**.



We Need to Stop!

Global warming isn't good for our Earth as it heats everything up. It causes ice to melt in the Antarctic and sometimes this causes floods in other parts of the world.



Flooding and rising sea levels means that beaches become smaller. This poses a danger to many animals, such as the loggerhead sea turtle, which lays its eggs in a nest on the beach.



Additionally, the nests need to be the perfect temperature, as this affects whether the turtles will grow to become male or female. If the temperature keeps rising, more female turtles will be born than males. This increases the risk of this wonderful, already vulnerable species, becoming extinct.



How Can You Help?

There are lots of ways we can help protect our beautiful blue planet:



Recycle things, rather than throw them away.



Eat sustainable fish (that means fish that isn't allowed to be overfished, so we don't run out).



Help spread the message about looking after our oceans and recycling.



Stop using lots of plastics that could end up in the seas (even wet wipes can contain small amounts of plastic).

How Can You Help?

Can You Make a Recycled Plastic Sculpture?

Help spread the word in your community that we need to stop polluting our beautiful blue planet. You may work in small groups, classes or as a school-wide project.

You will need to write a **Plastic Amnesty Poster** to ask everyone in your school to bring in their recycled plastic. (When you ask someone to give something up or hand something over, this is called an amnesty.)

Next, you will need to design a sea creature that people's actions are putting in danger. You will make this sea creature out of the recycled plastics, to make everyone who sees it think about what harm plastic is causing.



Inspiration

Artists have already been making sculptures out of recycled plastic. Take a look at these for inspiration.



"270518-003 CPS" by [Chris Sampson] is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)



"Dolphin made from Reclaimed Plastics" by [Larry Koester] is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)



"Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea" by [IIP Photo Archive] is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)



"Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea" by [IIP Photo Archive] is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)



"Trash Talking Turtle" by [Sheila Sund] is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

BBC Teach Blue Planet Live Lesson Partnership Activity

Complete your sculpture design sheet. Take time to think and write about what key message your sculpture will show everyone.

Recycled Plastic Sculpture Design Sheet

Title of sculpture: _____

Explain what this sculpture shows: _____

Tools and materials needed:



BBC Teach

Live Lessons

