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Watch the <u>BBC Teach Blue Planet Live Lesson</u> with your class.

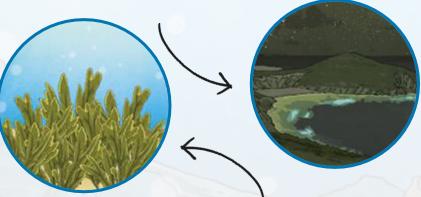


## Our Beautiful Blue Planet

### **Fascinating Facts**

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

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.



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.

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.

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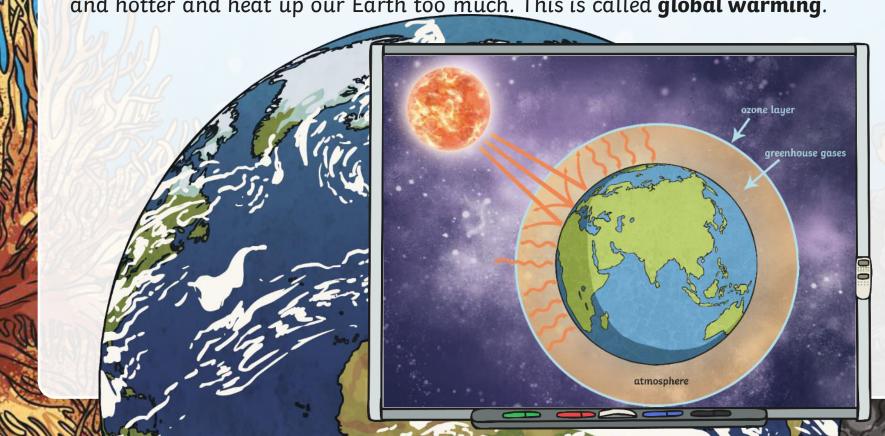
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People are causing lots of harm to our oceans and their living things. This means that our weather, or climate, is changing. Harmful gases are very damaging to our **climate**. These gases are produced by cars, vehicles and the factories that make some of our toys. When these harmful gases rise up into the air, they get trapped in the layer protecting our Earth from the Sun (called the **atmosphere**). When the Sun shines onto the layer of gases, they get hotter and hotter and heat up our Earth too much. This is called **global warming**.





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).



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



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



#### 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 schoolwide 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.







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

# BBC Teach Blue Planet Live Lesson Partnership Activity

#### When writing your poster, remember:

- Choose a catchy title.
- Use short, carefully chosen sentences.
- Make it eye-catching.
- Add key information, e.g. where people can donate their plastic/the date the amnesty finishes.
- Add your own attention-grabbing picture.

Plastic Amnesty Poster
:
Live Lessons

# 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.

Title of sculpture:  Explain what this sculpture shows:	
Tools and materials needed:	







