



What's going on this week?

Blue Planet II is currently one of the most watched TV programmes and has left millions of us in awe at the beauty and incredible diversity of the life in our oceans. However, a recent report shows that all sea life will be affected because carbon dioxide emissions from modern society are making the oceans more acidic. The eight-year study from more than 250 scientists finds that infant sea creatures will be especially harmed. The assessment comes from the BIOACID (Biological Impacts of Ocean Acidification) project, whose report was published last week.

Main question:

Should we change how we live to help protect our oceans?

Listen, think, share

- Look at the poster and talk about what we can see. Ask if anyone is watching Blue Planet II? What is it that makes it interesting to watch? Many people enjoy learning about life underwater. Why do we think this might be?
- Explain that a recent study has found that rising carbon dioxide (the gas that we breathe out) levels are causing issues in our seas and oceans as they are making the water more acidic, which isn't good news for the animals living in it.
- Explain that life on Earth would not be possible without our oceans. When viewed from space, our planet is a world covered with water. All living things are intimately tied to this water in lots of ways.
- Read through the fascinating facts about our oceans. Do any of them surprise us? Do any of them change how we feel about our oceans? Do we think we should be thinking about and trying to protect our oceans more?
- To understand how the ocean impacts our lives daily, we need to understand how it influences the world, its inhabitants produce much of the oxygen we breathe, that the life found in the ocean feeds us, and how its currents are used to connect humans around the Earth.

Reflection

Our seas and oceans provide countless benefits to our planet and all the creatures that live here. They provide us with over half the air we breathe and are essential to our survival. We must never take them for granted and play our part in their protection.



KS1 Focus

Question:

Why are our oceans important?

Listen, think, share

- Ask the children what an ocean is. Look at a map of the world and talk about where the oceans are. Explain that they take up a lot of the world!
- Look at the picture from the KS1 resource and talk through the questions around it.
- Explain that the image is of a coral reef. Explain that a coral reef is a living organism even though it looks like rocks! They provide a safe area for fish and also provide food for them too.
- Tell the children that the fish and other wildlife in our oceans provide a lot of the oxygen that we need to survive!
- Remember to look for the fish-tick next time you go to the supermarket. You might see it on a box of fish fingers or on the fresh fish counter. Have a look to see if it's on your school menu. If you see the fish-tick it means that the fish has been caught by fish industry workers who are taking care of the sea.

Reflection

Our oceans take up more than three quarters of our world and hold nearly all of our water! They are vital for keeping us alive, so we must protect them in any way we can!



KS2 Focus

Question:

What can we do to look after our oceans?

Listen, think, share

- Ask the children if they can name our oceans. Look at a map of the world and talk about how much we think the Earth's surface seas and ocean take up? Tell the children it is 72%!
- Ask if anyone knows the difference between the sea and the ocean? Explain that seas are usually smaller than oceans and are located where the land and ocean meet.
- Look at the KS2 resource and read through the problems our oceans are currently facing. Can you think of changes that we can all do to help find a solution to each of the issues?
- Ask the children whose responsibility they think it is to look after our oceans and all the wildlife they contain and why?
- Explain that they are so important for all our survival and the wildlife in them, it's something that we should all be accountable for.

Reflection

Even if we don't live near an ocean or the sea, its existence is vital for our own and we must ensure to find ways to look after them.



KS2 Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: Ask the children to use the information provided in the assembly and their own research to plan and write a non-chronological report. This could be about a fish found in the coral reef, an ocean or the coral reef itself.

Maths: 72% of Earth is water. Ask the children to represent 72% in a way they choose (on a hundred square, using base 10 etc.). Represent 72% as a fraction in its simplest form and as a decimal fraction.

Science: Look at a number of animals and creatures found in the sea. Ask the children to consider how these animals are adapted to their environment.

Geography: Using a map of the world, locate and name oceans. A great way of remembering the world's oceans is Apple Picking Is Awesome Sometimes (Arctic, Pacific, Indian, Atlantic, Southern Ocean).

Art: Allow the children time to look at how different artist's sketch the sea.

PE: Children can work in groups to plan some sea-themed games to share with the younger children e.g. the fish need to swim and not get caught by the shark, the fish needs to take (dribble) their food (ball) back to the coral reef without an octopus stealing it.

Computing: Ask the children to use a program such as Scratch to create a game where the fish has to navigate its way through the coral reef without touching it.



KS1 Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: Using the pictures provided or a clip from a film such as Finding Nemo, ask the children to share vocabulary describing the coral reef and the ocean. Create a setting description using pictures, words and/or sentences.

Maths: Look at the main poster. Ask the children how many fish there are? Discuss what the word estimate means. Ask the children to work with a talk partner to now estimate the number of fish. Use other objects for children to estimate and then count (if they can be ocean themed – amazing!).

Science: Look at and name a variety of creatures found under the sea. Ask the children to describe and compare them.

Music: Think of the different sounds the sea can make. If you can, listen to some. Ask the children to use their mouths and voices to make 'sea' sounds. Create a composition individually or as a group then share.

Geography: Show the children a globe. Look at how much is the sea. Ask if anyone knows what we call some of the oceans.

PE: Play some sea-themed games planned by children in KS2.

DT: Design and make sea creatures to display in an 'Under the Sea' role play area. Empty milk bottles or drinks bottles make incredible fish, once decorated. Allow children freedom to choose their creature e.g. starfish, octopus.



This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

<http://bit.ly/2iRbK7r>

Blue Planet Website

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04tjbtX

This Week's Useful Videos

Why our oceans matter

<http://bit.ly/2iSsDyJ>

Life underwater clip

<http://bbc.in/2yVdW8F>