



## Global Ocean Sculpture Workshop

**Aim:** A fun and informative session where children learn more about sea creatures and the negative impacts of plastic in the Ocean. In addition they will create three-dimensional sculptures out of recycled plastic.

**Age group:** This workshop can be adapted to suit any age group. The time it takes will depend on the age and ability of the class (ranging between 1 & 2 hours).



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

## **Art:**

The workshop session encourages pupils to:

1. Record from observation.
2. Represent their observations, ideas and feelings by creating a three dimensional sculpture.
3. **Explore the use of a recycled material in a variety of ways.**

## **Science and the Environment:**

The workshop session encourages pupils to:

1. Use common words and phrases relating to marine life.
2. Find out about the negative impacts of plastic in the sea and identify ways of reducing the amount of plastic pollution reaching the marine environment.
3. To ask and answer questions about sea life.
4. To learn how individual and collective behaviour can effect the environment.

## **Speaking and Listening:**

The workshop session encourages pupils to:

1. Listen, understand and respond appropriately to others.
2. Take turns in speaking.
3. Ask questions to clarify their understanding.

**(For a curriculum map and additional activities click [HERE](#))**

## What is needed?

As much plastic as can be collected. Everyone who is taking part in this activity should take part in the gathering. This is an important part of the process. It provides a greater awareness of how much plastic we come across on a daily basis and is a good way to involve the whole class as well as their families.

How much can you collect in a week? A few good ones to look out for are - plastic bags, bubble wrap, milk bottles, bottle tops, yogurt pots, broken toys. Once you start you will be surprised by how much is made of plastic.

It is important to wash bottles and food containers thoroughly.

## What else is needed?

Scissors

Several rolls of sticky tape, ideally one roll between two (sticky tape dispensers are invaluable)

Permanent marker pens in a range of colours

Images of sea life - these are easily accessible from the Internet and books. Choose a selection of shapes, sizes and types of marine life. These might include: Octopus, Prawns, Lobster, Turtles, Swordfish, Sea snakes. Search Google images 'marine animals'



## Suggested Structure of the Workshop

Lay out all the collected plastic on a table in a big pile alongside the other resources such as images, sticky tape and scissors.

Gather around and start a discussion about plastic and the negative impact of plastic in the Ocean (see topics for discussion P6)

Ask the children to decide on a type of sea creature to make into a sculpture. They might work individually or in pairs/ groups.

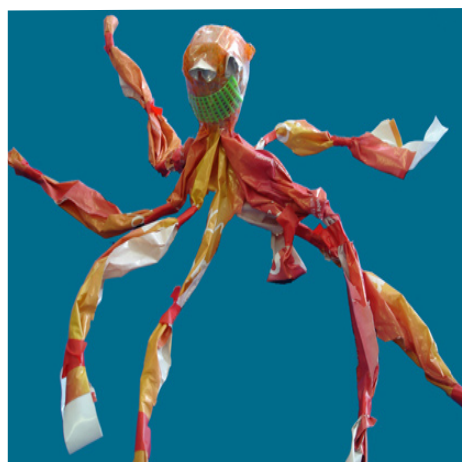
Demonstrate a few making techniques and show images of various sea creatures. (Tips and pictures are provided)

The children can then choose relevant shapes and sizes and colours of plastic to suit their individual needs.

Once the workshop is finished, tidy up and lay all the sculptures out to view as a class.

Discuss the final pieces and ask questions relating to what has been created and what has been learnt. Refer back to topics for discussion.

Take photographs of the session in process and the final sculptures. Global Ocean welcomes feedback ([Link to feedback paragraph](#)).



## How to make a Plastic Sculpture

Sculptures can be simple or elaborate. The experience is about making and exploring the properties of plastic in addition to having an informative discussion relative to marine life. Every time this workshop is repeated a child discovers a new way to create. It is important to allow the children to problem solve and come up with creative solutions themselves.

Tips: To get things started we have provided some suggestions on creating basic shapes.

1. A milk bottle can be covered with cut out strips from plastic bags
2. A carrier bag with a corner stuffed with recycled plastic creates a basic shape for an octopus head. Cut up 8 strips towards the head and bind with tape to create the legs (you can add bubble wrap for texture)
3. Milk bottles can be cut in to panels and assembled to create sophisticated shapes.
4. Permanent pens can be used to draw details such as gills and scales.
5. To make a larger sculpture, plastic bags and bubble wrap can be used as stuffing. This is done by wrapping and taping



## Topics for Discussion

### Plastic

How many different types of plastic did you find?

Was it easy or difficult to collect so many bits?

List some of the items brought in?

How many different types of bags have been collected?

How many different colours?

How long does plastic last before it decomposes?

Answer - around 1000 years

### Plastic in the Ocean

How does plastic get in to the Ocean?

Answer – Fishing boats dump nets and fishing equipment - Beach visitors litter after picnics - Littering in cities causes rubbish to be washed into the ocean via rivers and streams - An increase in population increases the amount of rubbish produced.

What are the negative impacts of polluting the seas with plastic and how does it affect marine life?

Answer - When plastic gets into the ocean it stays there for a very long time, with some larger pieces taking hundreds of years to break down.

What effect does this have?

Answer - Marine animals often get caught up in plastic litter they also think the plastic is food and eat it which is very dangerous as it can cause choking. Turtles often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish which is one of their favorite foods - Plastic can clog up the stomachs of marine creatures meaning there is no room for food, which means they have no energy to move or feed.

### Visiting the Seaside

Have you been to the seaside before?

What is your favorite marine species?

## What can we do? REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

- Organise A Global Ocean Plastic Workshop
- Reduce the number of plastic bottles we use instead use reusable bottles/flasks and boxes.
- Choose canvas bags over plastic bags - Keeping a canvas bag with you at all times means that you may never need a plastic bag again and you can even design your own bag by using fabric paints on canvas.
- Do not leave litter on beaches
- Choose Tap Water Over Bottled Water - Find out the truth about the bottled water industry and watch "Tapped the movie" at: [www.tappedthemovie.com](http://www.tappedthemovie.com)
- Help the Marine Conservation Society - adopt your local beach or take part in a beach clean with the MCS – [www.adoptabeach.org.uk](http://www.adoptabeach.org.uk)

### Suggested Variations on the workshop

Workshops can be adapted to specific topics covered in the school through themes e.g. habitats /endangered species. For more information on this e-mail

[info@globalocean.eu](mailto:info@globalocean.eu)

### Feedback

We would very much welcome your feedback. Please take a minute to fill in our evaluation form. There is one for teachers and one for children ([link to evaluation form](#)). Also if you would like to be part of our online gallery please send us three – five images, along with your quotes and you could see your work on the Global Ocean website! ([link to gallery](#)).