

Oceans are important to all of us... and they're in danger. As a teacher, you have the power to influence the next generation to be mindful and sustainable consumers. Their attitudes and behaviours will determine the fate of our oceans.

Sky is encouraging schools across the UK to use the Ocean Rescue topic as a springboard for creativity, learning and skill development. We've provided a number of engaging activity ideas that you can use flexibly to bring the topic to life.

Introducing the topic

The assembly presentation has been designed to introduce the Ocean Rescue topic within your school. If this hasn't been used for a whole-school assembly, it can be shown in class to kick off discussion and activities around the topic.

Using the fact sheet (English, Geography, Science)

We've provided a sheet with facts about the issue of plastics in our oceans, as well as what Sky and other organisations and businesses are doing about it. This can be used flexibly to give students a basic understanding of the issue in preparation for further research.

What can I do? (Art & Design, Geography)

Ask students to read through Sky's tips for reducing consumption of single-use plastics (found on the Sky Ocean Rescue website or in the Parent Leaflet). Explain that every one of these actions will make a difference. These tips can be used flexibly for a variety of student tasks, e.g. students could be asked to expand these tips, sharing ideas about other ways to Pass On Plastic, to design a set of icons or emojis to represent each of the tips, or to create a way to 'gamify' the different actions to encourage more people to carry them out (see Parent Leaflet).

The oceans and us (Geography, Science)

Organise students into project groups and ask them to use ocean plastic as a case study to research and put together a leaflet, report or presentation covering one of the following:

- Geography focus – how human activity (disposal of plastic waste) interacts with physical processes (e.g. ocean currents) to influence and change landscapes, environments and climate;
- Science focus – how organisms affect, and are affected by, their environment, including the accumulation of toxic materials (e.g. gyres of plastic waste in the oceans affecting marine life)

The Activity Sheet may be useful for this task.

Campaign films (English, Geography, Science)

Explain that film can be a powerful medium for getting important messages across. If students haven't already seen it, you could show them some of the Sky Ocean Rescue footage on the website: <https://skyoceanrescue.com/about-sky-ocean-rescue/> or <https://skyoceanrescue.com/latest-news/a-plastic-tide/>. Students can then be asked to work in groups to complete their own short films to get the message across. These could be in the style of an advertisement,

campaign video, documentary, or even soap storyline. The Activity Sheet may be useful for this task.

Persuasive writing (English)

Explain that one of the things that people can do if they aren't happy with the way things are is to express their voice and opinion through persuasive writing. Show students some examples and ask them to comment on the type of techniques and language used to persuade (e.g. using arguments backed up by statistics, appealing to the emotions). They could then plan and write their own blogs (see Competition Leaflet) using peer-review to improve their work. The Activity Sheet may be useful for this task.

Linking to home

Give students the Parent Leaflet and Parent Poster to take home. These contain information about ways that families can work together to reduce their consumption of single-use plastics.

Pledge Certificates

Give students a Pledge Certificate each, asking them to complete it with one thing they promise to do to cut down single-use plastics. Pledge Certificates can be displayed in school or sent home with the materials for parents.



Sky Academy Studios

Sky Academy Studios offers students aged 8-16 a unique and innovative way to bring the curriculum to life, as students work together with talented professional staff in a bespoke TV studio to develop their own films, while developing their creativity, collaboration and communication. There are two experiences related to Sky Ocean Rescue:

- **FACT: News Reporting** – Students are given the chance to explore and express their voice around the issue. With the help of Sky's expert team, they learn about how to structure a news report and communicate their ideas to an audience. (Focus on media literacy and non-fiction writing)
- **FUTURE: Ideas & Innovation** – Students explore the issue and then work in project teams to come up with their own 'Big Idea' as a solution to the challenge and consider how to pitch it. With the help of our expert team, they'll use their persuasive writing skills to create a product brief and showcase their ideas in an exciting pitch video. (Focus on persuasive writing and enterprise skills)

Sky Academy Studios is free to UK schools and can be booked at: <https://teachers.sky.com/skills-studios>