

PUPIL PROTEST

What do we want? Ideas



**OCEAN
SCHOOL**
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE



All Ages



15 Mins



Outdoors



Make a difference and make it loud. Turn up the volume on the **Voice of the Ocean** activity by turning interesting information into an in-your-face protest.

Do

- Pick some of the facts from the next page and share them with the group.
- Choose one fact each and turn it into a catchy slogan or design to go on a placard.
- Spend some time writing and drawing each idea onto the placards.

Discuss

- How did you come up with your ideas?
- Which is your favourite placard? And why?
- If you could show anyone in the world your placard, who would it be?

Prepare

- Blank placards.
- The protest fact sheet.
- Pens and pencils.
- Your imagination.

Learn

- A range of ocean conservation facts and statistics.
- Communication skills.

Act

- So you have a bunch of ready-made protest placards and some energised ocean activists. What to do, what to do... (if you do decide to take your protest to the streets, good for you! Just remember to obey the law and keep everyone safe at all times.)
- Or you could take a picture of you all holding your placards and post it on your socials - tagging us as well of course.



**EVEN THE SMALLEST
OCEAN ACTIVIST
CAN MAKE A HUGE
DIFFERENCE.**

Get the facts

THE OCEAN AND OUR IMPACT

- 95% of the ocean is unexplored. In fact we know less about it than the surface of Mars. Just recently a 392 year old Greenland Shark was discovered!
- Without ocean life, we wouldn't be able to breathe. More than half the oxygen in the atmosphere is created in the ocean, by things like marshes and underwater kelp forests.
- Lots of medicines come from marine plants and animals. Like coral reefs, algae and even starfish.

PLASTIC POLLUTION

- Every minute, enough plastic to fill a rubbish truck enters the ocean. That's around 12 million tonnes a year.
- There are an estimated 5.25 trillion macro and micro plastic pieces floating in the open ocean. This weighs up to 269,000 Tonnes.
- In just 15 years the amount of plastic washing up on UK beaches has almost doubled.
- At current rates, by 2050, there could be more plastic in the ocean than fish.

MARINE LIFE

- Recent studies found marine plastic pollution in the bodies of 100% of marine turtles, 59% of whales, 36% of seals and 40% of seabird species examined.
- Plastic pollution is mistaken for food by almost all marine animals. Some even think it's a toy.
- Every 30 seconds a marine animal dies because of plastic pollution. That's over 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million seabirds every year.

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

- Plastic bottles are made to be used for minutes. But they cause harm for hundreds of years.
- A plastic bottle takes over 450 years to break down in the marine environment.
- 38.5 million single-use plastic bottles are used every day in the UK.

PLASTIC PRODUCTION

- The world produced more plastic between 2002 and 2012 than in the whole of human history before that.
- In 1950 we produced 1.5 million tonnes of plastic. This had grown to 448 million tonnes in 2015.
- Plastic production is set to double by 2030.

CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

- Climate change = ocean change. Whenever people burn fossil fuels, carbon dioxide is added to the atmosphere. And the ocean absorbs a lot of it. This changes water temperature, ocean acidification and deoxygenation. Which leads to changes in oceanic circulation and chemistry, rising sea levels, more intense storms, and dying marine species.

ACID OCEANS

- Over the last few decades, the amount of carbon dioxide dissolved in the ocean has increased all over the world.
- In the ocean, carbon dioxide reacts with seawater to form carbonic acid, which makes seawater more acidic.
- More acidic seawater makes it harder for corals to build skeletons and for shellfish to build the shells they need for protection.

CORAL BLEACHING

- Global heating and ocean acidification have already severely bleached up to 33% of all warm water reefs. And the rest are vulnerable to even a fraction of a degree more warming.
- Temperature spikes of only 1-2° can trigger mass bleaching on up to hundreds of miles of coral reef.
- Coral bleaching affected 70% of the world's coral reefs between 2014 and 2017.

CUTTING OUR CARBON

- Lowering our carbon emissions is essential if we want to stop the worst effects of climate change.
- The UK can end its contribution to global warming within 30 years by committing to zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

GET THE MOST FROM OCEAN SCHOOL

Pupil Protest is a **Protect** activity, all about putting what you've learned into action. For a full Ocean School journey, we'd recommend starting with a **Connect** exercise to help you feel closer to the sea, followed by an **Explore** task, where you can get active and investigate big issues. You can then finish your Ocean School with this **Protect** activity.



Share your Ocean School story here:

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 @SurfersAgainstSewage
 @SasCampaigns
#OceanSchool #OceanActivists