

Twelve things to do on World Oceans Day

1. **Host a screening** of the film 'A Plastic Ocean' at your school, as a community or pupil event; details from <https://plasticoceans.org/about-film/>
2. **Host a Cool Seas assembly, infant or junior workshop, performance, or Big Blue day**; supported by the Marine Conservation Society <https://www.mcsuk.org/coolseas/>
3. **Create a display** with your pupils, based on activities 6 or 7 from the GLP World Oceans Day materials
 - Try out the activity, then use an atlas and a large world map: add place names and factoids from the activity to turn the map into a display.
 - Select and add ocean images and key facts about plastic in the oceans from different sources, for example:
 - <http://ouroceansourfuture.org/infographics>
 - <http://ouroceansourfuture.org/images>
 - <http://www.chrisjordan.com/gallery/midway/#CF000313%2018x24>
 - <https://plasticoceans.org/infographic-reduce-plastic-pollution/>
 - <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/life-below-water-infographic/>
4. **Investigate plastic footprints**, for example: in your classroom, pupils' homes, or after a supermarket shop. With your pupils, first discuss the questions you want to investigate, for example:
 - How many, and what type of plastic items are there?
 - What are the different ways that plastic is used?
 - What types of plastic materials are used?
 - How might they be reused, recycled, reduced or replaced?
 Information on types of plastic: https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/Foundation_New-Plastics-Economy_4.jpg
 Tips to reduce your plastic footprint: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/ten-tips-reduce-your-plastic-footprint> and <https://plasticoceans.org/> (go to 'Infographics').
5. Use Think Global's Supermarket Waste Kit to **investigate waste in food and plastics**, with activities for English, geography and technology: <https://globaldimension.org.uk/resource/supermarket-waste-plastic/>
6. **Drop a virtual plastic duck in any ocean**, and see what happens; follow the link from the Grantham Institute website: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/grantham/our-work/earth-systems-variability-and-change/plastic-pollution-in-the-ocean/>
 - Find out what happened to 28,000 ducks shipwrecked in 1992: <https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/stories/what-can-28000-rubber-duckies-lost-at-sea-teach-us-about>

- Investigate ocean currents using the NOAA animation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vgvTeuoDWY&t=238s>, or NASA Climate Kids: <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/ocean/>

7. If you live near the sea, **get involved in a beach clean-up** for staff, parents or other volunteers:

- to help you set it up, you could use the World Oceans Day guide from <http://www.worldoceansday.org/plastic-pollution-resources>
- you can log and monitor data on the Marine Debris tracker: <http://www.marinedebris.engr.uga.edu/>

If you can't get to a beach in person, the Plastic Tide site has a 'Tag It' app to **identify beach litter virtually**: <https://www.theplastictide.com/>

8. **Investigate litter in your local area** using Eco-Schools' resources: <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/topics/litter/>. Then discuss how it is that litter contributes to the 80% of plastic debris in oceans that typically originates from the land. Plastic Tide has a graphic: <https://www.theplastictide.com> – go to 'The Problem'; NOAA's marine debris site has a US-focused video: <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/> – go to 'Discover the Issue', 'Trash Talk'.

9. **Create a piece of waste-plastic artwork** with inspiration from [Washed Ashore](#), [Skeleton Sea](#), or UK artists such as [Fran Crowe](#).

10. **Investigate marine food webs** using the GLP-E activity guide linked to [Marine Food Webs and Sustainable Fisheries](#). Find out how plastics end up in the food chain and in fish, marine animals and people from <https://www.plasticoceans.org/> (especially the videos on micro-plastics and plastics in food).

11. **Try some of these STEM activities:**

From Practical Action:

- **Plastics Challenge:** KS2 pupils investigate the properties of plastics and find solutions to problems caused by plastic waste <https://practicalaction.org/plastics-challenge>
- **Reuse or recycle:** KS3 pupils investigate recycling aluminium cans and plastics <http://practicalaction.org/upd8-recycle-or-reuse>

From STEM, focused on the acidification of the oceans:

- Ocean acidification in a cup
- Dissolve a sea shell in vinegar
- Explore marine food webs and acidification

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/32816/world-oceans-day>

12. Explore the Great Barrier Reef with a virtual dive in Google Street View

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/about/behind-the-scenes/streetview/treks/oceans/>

- Then investigate coral reefs with Teach Ocean Science webquests and short hands-on activities <http://www.teachoceanscience.net/>, or one of the suggestions in GLP activity 8.