

# Ocean Challenge

## Recommended Lesson Plans

Elementary/Âges 5-11



In addition to the featured curriculum and learning resources you can find [here](#), we also wanted to share some relevant and helpful lesson plans by grade and age range to help enhance your team's learning through the Ocean Challenge. Explore these lessons below that range in duration and topical focus.

| Name and Source   | Description   | Duration, Grade/Age   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>How People Affect Ocean Animals and Plants</b><br>From National Geographic   | This lesson allows educators to challenge their students to think critically about their own actions, and how they may be contributing to pollution beyond simply littering. Students brainstorm how people living along coasts can both harm and help ocean animals and plants. Then they analyze specific examples.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 50 minutes</li><li>• Grades K - 2</li><li>• Ages 5 - 8</li></ul>              |
| <b>Location, Location, Location: Coastal Living</b><br>From National Geographic | In this lesson, students explore the cause-effect relationship between humans and the environment that clearly shows the necessity for coastal conservation. Students prepare a news report that highlights problems facing coastal communities and how climate change might affect coastal populations.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 hours and 30 minutes</li><li>• Grades 3 - 5</li><li>• Ages 8 - 11</li></ul> |
| <b>Paper Plate Fish Lesson</b><br>From MOOREA Coral Reef LTER Education         | This lesson is a fun, basic craft and can be adapted to incorporate structure and function lessons in a classroom setting. Students will build their own fish from a paper plate, decorate it, and learn about the function of each of their fish's fins in the process.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 30 min</li><li>• Grades K-12</li><li>• Ages 5-18</li></ul>                    |
| <b>TED-Ed Lesson: The nurdles' quest for ocean domination</b><br>From TED-Ed    | In this lesson, Kim Preshoff details the nurdles' quest for ocean domination, shedding light on the particular features that allow these pervasive pollutants to persist for entire generations. Nurdles are the tiny, factory-made pellets that form the raw material for every plastic product that we use, from toys to toothbrushes. And while they look pretty harmless on land, they can really wreak havoc on our ocean. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15 minutes or more</li><li>• Grades 3-12</li><li>• Ages 8-18</li></ul>        |



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|---|--|--|
| <b>TED-Ed Lesson: How Deep is the Ocean?</b><br>From TED-Ed | In this lesson, Tech Insider's animation on the depth of the ocean puts the actual distance into perspective, showing a vast distance between the waves we see and the mysterious point we call Challenger Deep.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15 minutes or more</li><li>• Grades 3-12</li><li>• Ages 8-18</li></ul> |
| <b>TED-Ed Lesson: How Big is the Ocean?</b><br>From TED-Ed  | In this lesson, Scott Gass reminds us of the influence humans have on the ocean and the influence it has on us. While the Earth's oceans are known as five separate entities, there is really only one ocean. So, how big is it? As of 2013, it takes up 71% of the Earth, houses 99% of the biosphere, and contains some of Earth's grandest geological features. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15 minutes or more</li><li>• Grades 3-12</li><li>• Ages 8-18</li></ul> |

## Additional sites with great resources to explore:

- [Smithsonian Ocean](#)
- [NOAA Ocean Education](#)
- [National Geographic Ocean Education](#)
- [Nature Works Everywhere](#)
- [Scholastic Ocean Collection](#)
- [TeAch-nology Ocean Lesson Plans](#)