



LESSON PLANS

OUR BLUE





Introduction

Welcome to Our Blue ! We're so excited for you to join us on our mission to protect the ocean. As part of this years' World Ocean Day for Schools we wanted to find a way to create meaningful impact - and the lessons you are about to take part in will hopefully do just that!

Much of our focus this year is about expanding our ocean story to become a water story - and helping students understand that every natural blue space is connected to the ocean, and therefore, they can become ocean advocates no matter where they live.

The Our Blue lessons are split into three main activities. They align closely with our pedagogical approach at World Ocean Day for Schools, educating with the head, the heart and the hands.

Each of the lesson plans can be adapted for our three target age groups (5-7, 7-11 and 11+) with suggested additional activities as well as recommended resources.

Part One - Adding your blue space & signing the manifesto

Part Two - Creating memory maps

Part Three - Building an action plan

You can access the Our Blue section of our website here - www.worldoceanday.school/ourblue

Any time you want to upload something to the site or move to the next stage, just click on the yellow Log in / Register button in the top right hand corner of the page, and you'll be asked to add your email address. You'll automatically be sent an email with a link that will log you in.

Once you've added your blue space to the map, you'll be directed to a dashboard which will give you access to the manifesto, the memory maps & the action plan activities.

If you have any questions, please just email us at hello@worldoceanday.school





Part One - Adding your blue space & signing the manifesto

Objectives

Help students understand (and feel) their connection to the ocean, no matter where they live, via their local blue space

Age Group

5-7, 7-11 and 11+

Materials required

Access to a computer, access to an email account (for teacher)

Activity - 30 mins

- Before class - Go to www.worldoceanday.school/ourblue and click on the yellow **Log in / Register** button in the top right corner of the page. You'll be asked to submit your email address and will be sent a link to login to the site and add your blue space.
- Introduction - Watch the Our Blue animation. You'll find it on the home page of our website.
- Class discussion - What is a blue space ? Any outdoor environment that features water. Ask your students if they can come up with some examples of natural blue spaces. Examples - Beach, river, lake, stream, canal, wetland.
- Class discussion - Where is our nearest blue space ? What kind of blue space is it ? How is our blue space connected to the ocean ? On a map, can we follow the water from our blue space all the way to the sea ?
- Teacher to log in to www.worldoceanday.school/ourblue via link previously sent to your email address and click on **Add your blue space to the map**.
- A form will pop up asking you to add your name, the name of the school (or your club, group) and then add the location of your nearest blue space. You have two options to locate your nearest blue space - Either find it on the map and drop the pin, or add the geographic coordinates.
- Remember - We need the location of your local blue space (your nearest river, coast, stream, lake), not your school address.





- Once you have confirmed your blue space, click **Add this blue space to the map**. Your blue space will show up on the public map as soon as we have approved it (normally within 24 hours).
- You'll be directed to your dashboard, where all four icons will be greyed out. As you complete the activities, the icons will change colour so you can keep track of your progress.
- Click **Sign** under the Sign the Manifesto icon - you'll be directed to the manifesto page.
- Ask a student to read the manifesto out loud and have a short discussion about what it means. Ask the class if they are happy to sign the manifesto and commit to becoming ocean advocates.
- Click the **Sign the Manifesto** button
- Congratulations - You've just completed the first stage !

Age group suggestions

Younger students - Create posters for the manifesto - either by writing the manifesto out, or using our template to create a colouring in and drawing activity.

Older students - Rather than using the map search on our website to find your local blue space, ask your students to use Google Maps to find it and work out the geographic coordinates. You can then use these to add your blue space to the map.



Part Two - Creating & sharing your memory maps

Objectives

Help students understand (and feel) their connection to the ocean, no matter where they live, via their local blue space

Build 'sense of place' for students & increase environmental advocacy

Age Group

5-7, 7-11 and 11+

Materials required

Access to a computer

Either printed versions of the Memory Map template PDF (you can find this on the Memory Map page of the website) or blank paper

Colouring pens & pencils

Activity - 45 mins

Memory maps help us capture a collection of all our favourite things about a specific place. We start by drawing a normal map of a place and then we add in memories, experiences, places and things that are important to us.

Memory maps can help us build our 'sense of place' - the meanings and emotions we connect to a particular place. As it grows and develops it influences our actions and we are more likely to become take care of our environment and become guardians of our blue space.

So often we think of maps as a representation of an area - something objective, based on facts & figures. Subjective mapping gives us the opportunity to capture what a place means to us. It's a highly personal process because it asks us to relate our own perspective and feelings to a location.

Note - If possible, this lesson is an incredible one to teach outside, at your local blue space.

- Introduction - Introduce the concept of 'sense of place' to the class - the meanings and emotions we connect to a particular place. Ask students about where they feel the strongest sense of place.





- Create your memory maps - Think of your nearest local blue space (this will be the space that you added to the map in your previous lesson).
- Ask students to start drawing their maps but creating an outline of the space and any key features.
- Give the class some time to think about your blue space. What things did they see, feel, smell, hear ? What living things were there (plants, animals etc) ? Who was there with them ? What things did you do ?
- Add your memories to the map - Students can add old and new memories. They can be simple drawings, icons or words (or a combination of all three). Students can scribble notes on the side to add more details if they want to. Make sure you give students the freedom to capture the things that are important to them. You may have certain things that everyone wants to add to their map (spotting a bug you've never seen before) or an activity you did together, but the focus should really be on the individual experience, things that hold meaning to each person.
- Share your map with your family, friends and us ! Log in to the website (via the log in link you received in your email) and click on **Dashboard**.
- Click the **Add** button under the **Add your memory map** icon
- Wrap up class discussion - Introduce the concept of 'Blue Mind' - The science that shows how being near, in, on or under water can make you happier, healthier, more connected and better at what you do. Ask students to think of ways they could spend more time at their blue space.
- Congratulations - You've just completed the second stage !

Note - If your students haven't yet visited your local blue space, we'd recommend planning a trip. In the meantime, you can create maps based on what you know is there, and then build on it once you've visited.

Age group suggestions

Younger students - Work together to create one collective memory map rather than individual maps. Ask each class member to think of their one favourite thing about the blue space.

Older students - Give your students more time to create their maps - so that they can really lean into the creative side of the activity. Ask them to add lots of details, stories etc to their maps. Find a space at school to create a gallery for the memory maps.





Part Three - Building & sharing your action plan

Objectives

Enable students to identify the role they can play in protecting the ocean via their local blue space

Age Group

5-7, 7-11 and 11+

Materials required

Access to a computer

Activity - 45 mins

This lesson helps us shift into action ! Now that you've identified your local blue space, we'll learn how best we can protect it. Building an action plan gives us a much better understanding of the environment and the practical things we can do.

This action plan guide has been developed in collaboration with the Marine Management Organisation who are part of the UK Government and Blue Marine Foundation.

Note - The answers to the Action Plan questions will need to be uploaded on our website. You can either type them in as you go during the lesson, or save them in a word doc and then copy & paste into the form when you are ready.

- Introduction - Introduce the concept of Marine Protected Areas as an example of how we can take an active role in protecting our blue spaces. More info on MPA's in the Recommended Resources.
- Log in to the website (via the log in link you received in your email) and click on **Dashboard**.
- Click the **Build** button under the **Build Your Action Plan** icon.
- Start creating your action plan. Use the questions on the next page as prompts for class discussion





1. Tell us about your blue space - What habitats and species are found there ? How do people use the space ? What is so special about it ?
 2. Can you identify any threats? Think about the different problems that are occurring at the site e.g. litter, pollution, new houses being built nearby, people / dogs disturbing wildlife.
 3. Determine your site's objectives - How would you like the space to be in 5 years time ?
 4. Determine your site's boundaries - Draw on a map where your protected area will be. Will it cover the whole blue space or just certain important bits of it ? Will it cover only the water or some of the land as well ?
 5. What rules do you think there should be for your site ?
 6. What actions are you going to take to help protect your blue space ?
- If you haven't already, add your answers to the form on our website and click **Submit your action plan** - <https://map.worldoceanday.school/action-plan>
 - Congratulations ! You've become Guardians of Our Blue. Check your email for your school certificate & badge. Make sure you let the whole school know about the work you've done and the plans you have to protect your blue space.

Age group suggestions

Younger students - It might be worth researching local environmental groups & organisations who may be able to come into school and share their knowledge with your class.

Older students -

Share your action plan - Write a letter to your local MP and share your ideas. You could even invite them into school and do a presentation of your action plan.

See if you can identify MPA's around the world. The Blue Belt programme works in UK Overseas Territories to create MPA's and has some really interesting locations. More info on MPA's in the Recommended Resources.



Recommended resources -

Marine Protected Areas

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-blue-belt-programme>

<https://www.mcsuk.org/ocean-emergency/marine-protected-areas>.

<https://www.mcsuk.org/ocean-emergency/marine-protected-areas/why-marine-protected-areas-are-important>

<https://www.mcsuk.org/news/action-marine-unprotected-areas/>

<https://www.blumarinefoundation.com/projects/jersey>

<https://www.blumarinefoundation.com/projects/ascension-island/>

<https://oceanconservationtrust.org/project/national-marine-park/>

<https://www.msc.org/uk/what-we-are-doing/oceans-at-risk/overfishing-illegal-and-destructive-fishing>

<https://www.msc.org/uk/what-we-are-doing/our-approach/what-is-sustainable-fishing>

<https://theriverstrust.org/key-issues/fisheries-wildlife>

<https://theriverstrust.org/key-issues/climate-change>

<https://worldoceanday.org/take-action/conservation-action-focus/>

Blue Mind

<https://www.blumarinefoundation.com/the-sea-we-breathe>

<https://www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/fun-learning/primary-learning/teaching-resources/wellbeing-primary/>

<https://oceanconservationtrust.org/think-ocean/why-is-the-ocean-important/>

Education resources

<https://www.blumarinefoundation.com/2020/03/25/blue-digital-education/>

<https://oceanconservationtrust.org/project/ocean-literacy-teachers-education-pack/>

<https://commonseas.com/programmes/ocean-plastics-academy>

<https://plasticcleverschools.co.uk/>





OUR BLUE

Every stream
Every river
Every coastline

Connected by water
We are all ocean advocates
Curious to learn and committed to care

Protecting our future
By protecting our blue

We start today



HUGE THANKS TO ALL OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

