



## **Lesson Three:** **Ocean is Family**

### Objectives

Introduce students to the concept of interconnectedness and climate justice and how they relate to ocean advocacy.

### Age Group

5-7, 7-11 and 11+

### Materials required

Art materials to make posters

### Activity: 30 mins

The phrase Ocean is Family describes the deep, interconnected relationship between people and the ocean. Just as we care for our families, we must also care for the ocean and the life it supports. This concept is important for all ages to understand because it encourages us to view the ocean not as a resource to be exploited but as a vital part of our lives that we must protect.

In this lesson you'll create posters to share the five principles behind our Ocean is Family theme. You can choose to make a poster exploring all five principles or split the class into five groups focusing on one principle each.

### 1. We are all interconnected

We are not separate from nature, but for years many people have lived as if they were. In fact, a large percentage of the global population still live in this way and act as if nature is simply a resource to be used. But whatever happens to nature, happens to us. Remembering our connection is vital. It helps us make better decisions and feel a deep sense of belonging in the world.

Prompts for poster design:

- What other species do you feel most connected to?
- What do you think we can do to feel more connected to the natural world?





## 2. Everything and everyone has value

Every living thing has value. Humans and all other species are part of Earth's vast community of life. There is no one species, race or community that has more value than another. This means we should treat all living things with respect, understanding the role they play in our community. For example, tiny phytoplankton help us breathe; mangrove trees protect our coastlines from storms; and the ocean regulates our climate.

Prompts for poster design:

- Can you think of some sea creatures who have important roles in the ocean?
- How could we live in a way that values nature more?

## 3. All living things deserve equal rights

Indigenous communities around the world hold a deep respect for the natural world, believing it to be a living entity with its own rights that must be protected. This belief has led to a growing movement advocating for the recognition of nature's rights and the establishment of legal frameworks to protect and preserve the environment.

Prompts for poster design:

- What Blue Space near you has its own rights to be protected, and why?
- What rights do you think a river should have, compared to a person?

## 4. We can all stand up for climate justice

Climate justice is a way of looking at environmental issues through the lens of social inequality. It seeks to ensure that everyone has access to clean air, water, and land. Many of the communities who are most at risk from climate change are those who are the least to blame for the problem.

Prompts for poster design:

- Why do you think less privileged communities are more at risk from climate change?
- What is one thing your local government could do to stand up for climate justice?





## 5. We are all crew on Spaceship Earth

A thinker called Buckminster Fuller shared an idea that we all live on 'Spaceship Earth.' After all, earth is an object moving through space! He described how this spaceship has a crew whose job is to maintain and protect all living systems on our planet. We love this idea because it helps us remember that every single one of us has a role to play in protecting our earth and our ocean.

Prompts for poster design:

- What do you think your role is as a crew member of Spaceship Earth ?
- How can we inspire people to be more than just passengers on spaceship earth ?

Age group suggestions:

### Younger students

Choose one of the five principles to focus on & create posters for. We recommend 1, 2 or 3.

### Older students

Discuss the concept of climate justice and how it shows up your local community. Is there a marginalised group who are or will be impacted by climate change more than others? What could be done to achieve climate justice locally?

