



TEACHER TOOLKIT

2026



www.worldoceanday.school



WELCOME !

Welcome to World Ocean Day for Schools 2026, and thank you for supporting our work. We couldn't do it without teachers like you. This toolkit aims to make it as easy as possible for you and your students to join us this year.

The toolkit covers all you need to know ahead of World Ocean Day for Schools 2026:

- Introduction to World Ocean Day for Schools
- This year's theme
- How to register
- What to expect
- This year's focus - Invent a Blue Job
- Our Blue global experiment
- Template letter for headteachers
- Meet our amazing partners

Let's get started!



INTRODUCTION

We've always believed that the best way to increase ocean literacy in young people is to connect them to their local blue spaces and help build a sense of agency. We realised in 2022 that engagement for World Ocean Day for Schools was coming predominantly from coastal schools. We built the Our Blue platform as a way to shift from just an ocean story to a water story - helping young people recognise that they can be ocean advocates no matter where they live.

Since then, over 3000 schools have added their local blue space to our map. Today, we have blue spaces in over 115 countries and counting! Once a school adds their blue space, they get access to free lesson plans and teaching resources and the opportunity to take part in the Our Blue global experiment.

Every young person has a role to play in protecting the ocean - but too often, students don't see themselves reflected in the ocean careers they hear about. So this year we're putting blue careers centre stage, helping young people understand that no matter what they're good at or where they live, there is a place for them in the future of ocean conservation.

We can't wait to share what we've created!



THIS YEAR'S THEME - EXPLORING BLUE CAREERS

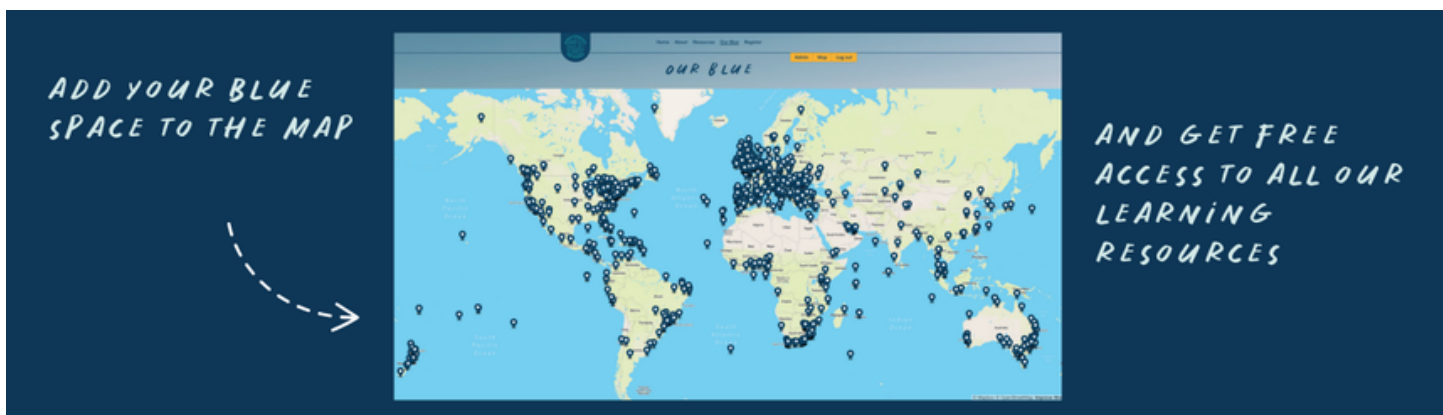
Every year, we choose a theme for World Ocean Day for Schools that gives us a foundation for designing the event. This year, our theme is exploring blue careers. We'll be introducing them to a crew of amazing individuals around the world who will share their stories, answer questions and hopefully, make kids think: wow, that could be me.

Our learning objectives for 2026 -

- Discover diverse, aspirational blue career pathways: Students will explore innovative ocean-related careers and understand how these jobs actively regenerate ocean ecosystems rather than simply "saving" them.
- Connect learning to local blue spaces: Students will identify and investigate blue spaces in their own community, building personal connections and a sense of belonging to their local blue environments.
- Design future-focused solutions: Students will use creative thinking to imagine and communicate their own vision of regenerative ocean careers through job posters
- Build agency as ocean stewards: Students will develop confidence in their ability to contribute to ocean health by connecting with real ocean advocates and understanding tangible pathways into blue careers.

HOW TO REGISTER

- 1 Register by visiting <https://worldoceanday.school/register/>
- 2 Add your local blue space to the Our Blue map to take part in the Our Blue experiment and access all the 2026 lesson plans.
- 3 Once you've signed up to Our Blue you're good to go ! You'll be able to download lesson plans and share your work with us via your profile.





WHAT TO EXPECT

We'll be hosting an amazing day of online learning that is free and open to everyone. The day kicks off at 9 am BST on June 8 with a Live Assembly, then it's up to you to choose which lessons and activities you take part in for the rest of the day. All our activities have adaptations for differing age groups to suit your needs.

Our brand new lesson - Invent a Blue Job - gives students the chance to imagine and design their own future role in ocean conservation. It's creative, it's hands-on, and it just might change how a young person sees their future.

Running throughout the day, we'll also be hosting live Q&As to showcase eight different blue careers - each one just 15 minutes long, so they fit neatly into a lesson. Watch live on YouTube and submit your questions in real time, or catch them later in the day if that works better for your timetable.

And don't forget you can join (or continue your journey) with the Our Blue experiment. There are six amazing activities with lesson plans and teaching resources all ready to download.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE ON JUNE 8

Our live assembly will be broadcast via our website, so on June 8th all you need to do is head to <https://worldoceanday.school> at 9am BST

You'll be able to watch our live Q&As on our website - but if you want to submit questions, you'll need to be logged in to YouTube. You'll find us here - <https://www.youtube.com/@worldoceandayforschools>

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



INVENT A BLUE JOB

The world of ocean conservation is diverse. It spans science, law, art, journalism, community organising, education, technology, policy, farming, filmmaking, and so much more - and every single one of those roles matters. Yet somehow, 'marine biologist' has become the default answer when we ask young people what an ocean career looks like. That narrow picture means many students - particularly those whose skills, backgrounds, or communities aren't represented in that image - never see a place for themselves in ocean conservation at all.

Invent a Blue Job is our brand new lesson for 2026, and it's about blowing that picture wide open. No matter what a student is good at, no matter where in the world they're from, there is a role for them in protecting the ocean. And many of the roles the ocean will need in the future haven't even been invented yet.

Using a worksheet to guide them, students work through five prompts to build out their future blue job - where in the world it is, what blue space they're working in, what they'd call the role, what skills they'd need, and what an average day looks like. Then they bring it to life by designing a poster - their very own job advert from the future.

Download the full lesson plan and worksheets from your Our Blue profile.

Throughout the day, we'll be hosting eight short Q&A sessions - one with each of our eight ocean characters. Each session is just 15 minutes long, so they're designed to fit neatly into a lesson without disrupting your day.



In 2022 we launched Our Blue - a digital platform that enables schools to map their local blue space. We want kids to know they can be ocean advocates no matter where they live. We created activities that helped build a closer connection to their blue space, whether it was a beach, river, canal, stream or lake.

We're exploring what it means to be a Good Blue Human - focusing on three main themes - Being, doing & connecting.

“World Ocean Day for Schools is a fantastic opportunity not only to explore the relationships people have with the sea, but also to understand how these relationships are formed in childhood. This is the first time that marine citizenship and what motivates it will be investigated in young people on a global scale. The data collected through this project will help researchers to better understand how marine citizenship can be promoted in all people.”

- Dr Pamela Buchan, Research Fellow, University of Exeter

Here's how you can join us

1. Add your local blue space to the map
2. Sign the manifesto
3. Join the experiment - Choose which activities you'd like to do. As you finish an activity, upload your data to the hub.



MANIFESTO

Kick off the Our Blue journey by adding your local blue space to the map and signing the manifesto.



MARINE IDENTITY

This quiz will help you learn more about your values and how to use them to be a good blue human and help take care of our amazing ocean.



DEEP CONFIDENCE

All our ocean heroes have deep confidence in their ability to make a difference. Explore four ways to build yours !



MEMORY MAPS

Memory maps help us build a 'sense of place' - the meanings and emotions we connect to a particular place.



SIT SPOT

A simple but powerful nature connection exercise that helps create a sense of belonging in your local blue space.



MARINE CITIZENSHIP

Learn how we can all play an active part in keeping the ocean environment sustainable for generations to come.



ACTION PLAN

Come up with a plan to take care of your local blue space - whether it's a beach, lake, river, stream or canal.

BEING

CONNECTING

DOING



LETTER TO HEADTEACHERS

Dear {headteacher/governors/parents association etc},

I'm excited to share a fun, meaningful way for our school and students to celebrate World Ocean Day on Monday, 8th June.

We can take part in -

- A livestreamed assembly at 9am BST (we can watch live or at any time in the day)
- Invent a Blue Job - a brand new lesson for 2026
- Eight live Q&As with ocean characters throughout the day
- Six activities to join the Our Blue experiment

Our students are the perfect age to learn more about the ocean in this enjoyable, engaging way. I'm happy to act as our blue ambassador to help bring this to life.

Look forward to hearing from you!

[Your name]



Common Seas believe children and young people should be equipped with the skills, knowledge and experience that allow them to thrive in a world affected by climate change, while helping to create a greener, fairer and more sustainable future.

Through our Plastic Clever Schools award, delivered in partnership with Kids Against Plastic, we provide everything you need to radically reduce plastic waste with students at the heart of the action.

Join our community of more than 900 schools already on the journey to protect our ocean- and our future.

Find out more at <https://commonseas.com/programmes/common-seas-education>



The Ocean Conservation Trust is a global charity that exists to protect and restore the Ocean. Work began in 1998, centred around harnessing the collective power of people and encouraging positive action through pro-ocean behaviour and habitat restoration.

The vision is a world where the Ocean is thriving, healthy, and sustainably protected for generations to come. Working across three core pillars — Ocean Advocacy, Ocean Habitats and Ocean Experiences, our team invests time, skills and passion into projects that increase biodiversity and combat climate change to protect the Ocean.

For decades, we've offered an engaging OCT Learning Programme, using the Ocean as a hook to teach various subjects. We provide an exciting and interactive programme, using the Ocean to deliver all subjects of the curriculum.

Our programme covers Outreach, School Visits, and Virtual Learning Experiences, giving you multiple and accessible ways to connect your students with our Ocean. Our immersive opportunities cater to students of all levels, inspiring approximately 30,000 young people yearly at our base at the National Marine Aquarium, and thousands more through our virtual reality tours and digital lessons.

www.oceanconservationtrust.org

Inspiring change through connection.



The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is an international non-profit organisation that works to end overfishing around the world. Our vision is of the world's oceans teeming with life and seafood supplies safeguarded for this and future generations.

Overfishing is a serious global problem that threatens marine wildlife, biodiversity, food security and livelihoods. According to the UN-FAO over a third of fish stocks are overfished. Tackling overfishing is a 'win-win' for us and the planet. The MSC mission is to use our fishery certification program and a blue label to contribute to the health of the ocean by recognising and rewarding sustainable fishing practices.

Working together to protect our ocean

The MSC works with fisheries, scientists, retailers and brands, restaurants and chefs, and many other ocean advocates to address overfishing, promote sustainable fishing practices and make it simple for everyone to choose sustainable, traceable, wild seafood.

How can your school take part?

Everyone has a part to play in making sure our ocean is healthy and teeming with life for generations to come. Education institutions have an important role in educating the future generations to care and protect the ocean. As an educator in your school, you can:

1. Inspire younger generations to learn more about how sustainable fishing protects our ocean and what we can all do to help. Check our education resources here:
www.msc.org/teach
2. You can promote ocean literacy in your classroom by participating in our learning activities
3. Check if your school canteen offers seafood with the MSC blue label.