How People Affect Ocean Animals and Plants

Students brainstorm how people living along coasts harm ocean animals and plants. Then they analyze specific examples.

GRADES
K, 1, 2

SUBJECTS
Geography, Human Geography

CONTENTS
10 Images

OVERVIEW
Students brainstorm how people living along coasts harm ocean animals and plants. Then they analyze specific examples.

For the complete activity with media resources, visit:

DIRECTIONS

1. Brainstorm the negative impact of humans on ocean life.
   Ask: How do people living along coasts harm ocean animals and plants? Discuss students’ ideas and list them on the board. Tell students you will look at some specific examples together.

2. Discuss runoff from streets into storm drains and where it goes.
   Show students the photo of a clear storm drain. Ask: Have you ever seen a storm drain like
**Extending the Learning**

Research whether or not you have storm drains in your community and, if so, where the runoff goes. If there are no storm drains in your town, try to find out where water and waste go when it rains. Also investigate whether there are any programs to educate the public about
how to keep the local waterways clean. Once you've gathered this information, have the whole class contribute to a poster to inform other students or adults about how to protect local waters.

OBJECTIVES

Subjects & Disciplines

Geography
- Human Geography

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- brainstorm how people living along coasts harm ocean animals and plants
- analyze specific examples
- identify ways that people can protect marine life from these dangers

Teaching Approach

- Learning-for-use

Teaching Methods

- Brainstorming
- Discussions
- Visual instruction

Skills Summary

This activity targets the following skills:

- Critical Thinking Skills
  - Applying
National Standards, Principles, and Practices

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS

- **Standard 12:** The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement
- **Standard 14:** How human actions modify the physical environment

Preparation

What You’ll Need

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

- Internet Access: Optional
- Tech Setup: 1 computer per classroom, Projector

PHYSICAL SPACE

- Classroom

GROUPING

- Large-group instruction

BACKGROUND & VOCABULARY

Background Information

Large coastal populations have an impact on ocean animals such as sea turtles and manatees. Many people and groups are working to protect these ocean animals.
Prior Knowledge

Recommended Prior Activities

- Healthy Beaches
- Why People Live Near Coasts

Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Part of Speech</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>coast</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>edge of land along the sea or other large body of water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>habitat</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>environment where an organism lives throughout the year or for shorter periods of time.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For Further Exploration

Websites

- EPA: Oceans, Coasts, & Estuaries
- National Geographic Kids: Animals—Loggerhead Sea Turtles
- National Geographic Kids: Animals—West Indian Manatees

FUNDER

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