



Explorer Classroom Event Guide: Grades 3-8 Protecting Our Oceans | The Pristine Seas Team

Explorer Classroom is for everyone! This guide is designed for your students or family to get the most out of Explorer Classroom. After the event, please share your thoughts, activities, and learnings with us on Twitter [@NatGeoEducation](https://twitter.com/NatGeoEducation) using [#ExplorerClassroom](https://twitter.com/ExplorerClassroom).

April 22, 2021, 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM Eastern Time

BEFORE YOU TUNE IN

SIGN UP

Register [here!](#)

BEFORE THE EVENT

If you plan to share this event with students virtually or encourage their participation independently, check out our tips for kids working Independently (p.7) in the [Family Guide to Using National Geographic Education Resources](#) and our virtual tips throughout this guide.

This event is recommended for learners in grades 3-8. As a group, build your background knowledge prior to the event with one of these activities or any combination of the linked resources that best fits your needs:

- ❑ **Read** about National Geographic [Pristine Seas](#), a project that combines exploration, research, and media to inspire country leaders to protect the last wild places in the ocean. [Meet the team](#) and familiarize yourself and your students with their work.
- ❑ **Watch** [Exploring Our Pristine Seas](#) (4:56) to learn about the power of marine sanctuaries from Explorer-in-Residence and Pristine Seas founder, Enric Sala.
- ❑ **Celebrate Earth Day** with National Geographic! Dive into these ocean resources with your learners using our new [Educator and Family Guide to Earth Day](#).
- ❑ **Brainstorm** questions for the Explorer that either focus on the person themselves or their work. Help your learner revise their questions making sure they 1) only ask one thing; 2) have a clear purpose; and 3) are specific. You may need to work together through a few drafts to arrive at a solid final question. Review questions together and select two favorites to ask on-air (if you [registered](#)), in the YouTube chat bar, or via **Twitter** [@NatGeoEducation](https://twitter.com/NatGeoEducation) using [#ExplorerClassroom](https://twitter.com/ExplorerClassroom).

DURING THE EVENT

As you listen, have students take notes using one of the graphic organizers listed below.

- ❑ [Two-Column Chart](#): Print copies or ask your students to draw their own two-column chart. Have your students write things they are learning in one column and in the other, write questions about that information, or draw something related to it.
- ❑ [Cause-and-Effect Diagram](#): Have your students use this organizer to identify what happened (effect) and why it happened (cause).

AFTER THE EVENT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Debriefing as a class or a family is an important part of the learning journey. Discussion helps learners process ideas, reflect, and make new connections. Use these questions to help provide context to the event. The questions are open-ended and designed to facilitate a discussion about the event you just participated in together. You know your students best! Modify these questions as necessary to spark conversation.

1. What was your favorite part of today's talk? Why?
2. What was one new thing you learned during the Explorer Classroom event you didn't know before? What is one question you still have?
3. Why do you think protecting the ocean is important?
4. Is there a part of the ocean you want to explore? Why?
5. What skills, tools, or knowledge would you need to explore?

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

We encourage students to reflect on what they've learned from the Explorer during the event by completing one of the following tasks and sharing their work with the class, a friend, or family member. Share their great work with us on Twitter—[@NatGeoEducation](#) [#ExplorerClassroom](#)—so the Explorer can see how much they've learned!

- Write a short news article to tell others what the Pristine Seas team is working on and why that work is important.
- Produce a short video or social media post explaining one thing you learned today and one thing you're curious to learn more about.
- Have a class discussion: What's an area in your community you think is important to protect and conserve? Why? How? Who could lead that effort?

EXTENSION RESOURCES

Try one of these resources and keep your students exploring with National Geographic Education.

- *Join in the Mission*: What are you passionate about? Take some time to talk to your friends about your passion and help spread the word about protecting the ocean, like the Pristine Seas team!

- Continue exploring the [Pristine Seas](#) page to learn about the ocean's incredible biodiversity, and why it is important to protect. Click through the Stories from the Field to see where the expedition team has been thus far.
- [Create a Marine Protected Area!](#) In this activity, students experiment with designating a marine protected area along an imaginary coastline and discuss the challenges of deciding on rules and restrictions within it.
- Looking for a challenge? Use the questions in the [Protecting the Ocean](#) activity to lead your students in a discussion about complex topics like: who owns the ocean and who gets to protect it?
- Interested in more National Geographic conservation efforts? Watch [Explorer Classroom with Joel Sartore](#), photographer and founder of the National Geographic Photo Ark.
- For more Pristine Seas, check out [Explorer Classroom with Enric Sala](#), marine ecologist and founder of the Pristine Seas project.

Looking for more ways to engage your students online, in-person, or at home? Find more on our [Learn Anywhere](#) page or in our [Resource Library](#).