



GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

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MOST OF THE PLANET'S SURFACE IS WATER! HERE'S WHAT WE MUST DO TO PROTECT THE OCEANS:

Oceans, coastal zones and marine resources are essential to human well-being, as well as social and economic prosperity worldwide. Beyond humankind, oceans support over 200,000 identified species and countless other species that have yet to be discovered.

Keeping our oceans clean and healthy is in our best interests because they help protect our drinking water, weather, climate, food and oxygen. Managing the impact of trade and transportation means increasing international cooperation to protect vulnerable habitats, invest in sustainable industry practices, and address wasteful habits.

Find this cartoon and other lesson resources at the [World's Largest Lesson page](#) for Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Learn the Facts:

Access [this short fact sheet](#), and share with your children for information about Goal 14: Life Below Water.

1. REDUCE AND PREVENT POLLUTION
Illustration: A factory on a boat discharging waste into the ocean.

2. PROTECT ECOSYSTEMS
Illustration: A vibrant underwater coral reef with various sea creatures.

3. END OVERFISHING AND ILLEGAL FISHING
Illustration: A fisherman on a boat talking to two illegal fishers with nets full of fish.

4. HELP FISHING COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE FISHING PRACTICES
Illustration: A coastal village with a sustainable fishing boat.

5. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION
- TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE
- TO IMPROVE TECHNOLOGIES
- TO MINIMIZE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION
Illustration: Two scientists in lab coats working together with equipment.

6. MAKE AND MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL LAWS
AGREEMENTS
Illustration: A group of people shaking hands in front of a sign that says 'AGREEMENTS'.





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ONLINE RESOURCES
FOR TEACHING THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
FROM HOME

For your child in elementary:

National Geographic created a collection of educational resources called [Ocean Education](#), providing several educational tools for children in grades K-2, and 3-5.

Try the [Healthy Beaches activity](#) with your child in grades K-2, to guide discussion about healthy interactions between people and the natural environment on beaches. The activity will instruct you to show several beach images to your child, and will instruct you to ask them questions about what they see and the implications of the activities.

For children in grades 3-5, try the activity [Create a Marine Protected Area](#). Follow the instructions provided to have your child discuss and design a marine community where people interact with water resources in a sustainable manner.

For your child in middle years:

Explore the oceans with the [Ocean Literacy](#) ‘course’ designed by Ocean Wise for middle school students. Students will earn badges as they complete the modules.

The National Geographic created a collection of educational resources called [Ocean Education](#) which also provides several educational tools for children in grades 6-8.

For your child in high school:

Access [this PDF and read the facts](#) about ending poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, then visit <https://wildfor.life/quiz> to take the quiz to find out your kindred species and pledge to protect it - children can create their own personalized image as well.

Have your child watch a documentary or speech relevant to Life Below Water to inspire thought and encourage critical thinking such as: Why are oceans important to humans? How can we use the oceans in a more sustainable way? What measures can we take to conserve and clean up the oceans? Available on Netflix:

- [Mission Blue](#), 2014 (1 H 34 Mins) - about protecting the world’s oceans from threats
- [Chasing Coral](#), 2017 (1 H 29 Mins) - about the disappearance of the world’s coral reefs
- [A Plastic Ocean](#), 2016 (1 H 40 Mins) - about the environmental impacts of pollution in the world’s oceans

Don’t have Netflix? Find an engaging talk related to Life Below Water on [Ted Talks](#) (search “ocean”). Or try:

- [Let’s turn the high seas into the world’s largest nature reserve](#) April 2018 (12 Mins 58 S) by Enric Sala
- [Why the world needs sharks](#), September 2015 (17 Mins 27 S) by Ocean Ramsey

Then, [use 3-5 questions from this link](#) to have a discussion with your child about the film.

Continue Learning

Looking for more information on the Sustainable Development Goals? Read more in our free, downloadable guide, [Sustainable Foundations: A Guide for Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals](#), which is also [available in French](#).

