

# The Ocean & You

## Materials

- copies of *The Ocean & You* worksheet and *My Conservation Pledge* worksheet per student
- pencils, markers, or crayons

## Objectives

- To gather and organize data and form conclusions
- To learn how students can impact the ocean

## Introduction

Humans interact with the ocean ecosystem. We use the ocean for transportation, harvesting food and minerals, and recreation. And because all water eventually reaches the ocean, the things we do on land also affects the ocean. Some of our interactions with the ocean ecosystem can be harmful. Coastal animals such as bottlenose dolphins and habitats such as tide pools are likely to be affected by *pollution*, habitat destruction, heavy boat traffic, and global *climate change*.

*Conservation* means taking care of our environment by wisely managing its *resources*. We do this by interacting with the ecosystem in responsible ways. You are conserving when you turn off lights in an empty room, when you recycle, and when you turn off water while you are brushing your teeth. As we consider using ocean resources, we must also recognize that we are a part of this ecosystem. We have the responsibility to study our ecosystem and learn how it works so that we know how our interactions will affect it. This knowledge is important when we make decisions about how we may or may not use ocean resources.

## Action

1. As a class, discuss how humans interact with the ocean ecosystem both negatively and positively. Introduce the terms pollution and conservation.
2. Distribute copies of *The Ocean & You* worksheets to each student.
3. Divide students into small groups (up to four students) to complete their worksheet. Students will fill in their group members names at the top of the chart. They will write an X in the boxes underneath the students' names if they have ever done any of those activities.
4. Students will total the amount of X's they have for each activity and write the results in the "Totals" column. Older students may calculate percentages or create bar graphs of their results.
5. When the groups are finished, compare the results as a class.
6. Discuss how much you use the ocean and its resources. Discuss ways to help conserve ocean resources and resources worldwide.
7. Distribute copies of *My Conservation Pledge* worksheet to each student. They may color and decorate their worksheet. Students write down one way they will help to conserve resources and protect the environment. You can post these in your classroom. Examples include:
  - "I will remember to shut off lights when I leave a room."
  - "I will bring a reusable lunch bag to school instead of a paper or plastic bag."
  - "I will recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles at home."

# The Ocean & You

Write your name and your group members' names in the top line. Ask each group member if they have ever used the ocean for the activities listed below. If they have, put an X in the box below their name, next to that activity. Do the same for the conservation questions. Then, write the total number of X's you have for each question in the "Totals" column. Compare your results with other groups.

Names:					Totals:
<b>How do we use the ocean?</b>					
boating					
fishing					
visiting the beach					
surfing					
swimming					
eating seafood					
visiting tide pools					
whale watching					
<b>How do we conserve?</b>					
recycling					
turning off lights					
conserving water					
throwing away trash (not littering)					
other					

# My Conservation Pledge



To help conserve resources and protect our environment, I pledge to

---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# My Conservation Pledge



To help conserve resources and protect our environment, I pledge to

---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

