

This week's story looks at events related to ...





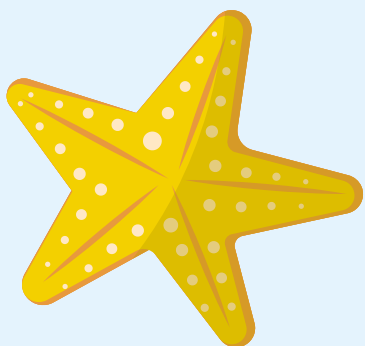
How can we protect the oceans?





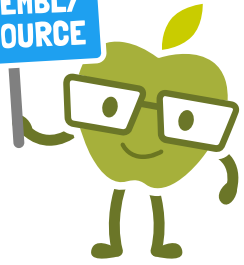
Let's look at this week's story

8th June is World Oceans Day, a time when people around the world think about how to care for seas, oceans and the creatures living in them. Dutch inventor, Boyan Slat, first became worried about ocean pollution as a teenager after seeing huge amounts of plastic while diving. He created the organisation The Ocean Cleanup, which designs special systems to remove rubbish from oceans and stop more plastic entering rivers and seas.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).





Read through the information below all about The Ocean Cleanup and Dutch inventor, Boyan Slat. Share your thoughts on his campaign.

The Ocean Cleanup

The Ocean Cleanup designs special floating systems that collect plastic from oceans and rivers, with the aim of stopping rubbish from harming sea animals and habitats. Some systems are placed in rivers to help stop plastic reaching the sea in the first place, and the project now works in several different countries around the world!

Who is Boyan Slat?

Boyan Slat is an inventor from the Netherlands. He became interested in ocean pollution after seeing large amounts of plastic while diving in the sea as a teenager.

At 18, he presented his idea to help remove plastic from the oceans. His school project later became an organisation called The Ocean Cleanup.

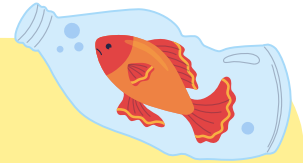
Why is ocean plastic a problem?

Millions of pieces of plastic end up in oceans every year, and sea creatures can become trapped in plastic or mistake it for food.

Tiny pieces of plastic, called microplastics, can also harm marine life, while plastic pollution can damage habitats and beaches.

Interesting Facts

- Oceans cover more than 70% of Earth's surface.
- Millions of animals and plants live in oceans.
- Some rivers carry rubbish from cities and towns into seas and oceans.
- The Ocean Cleanup project hopes to remove 90% the world's floating ocean plastic by 2040.

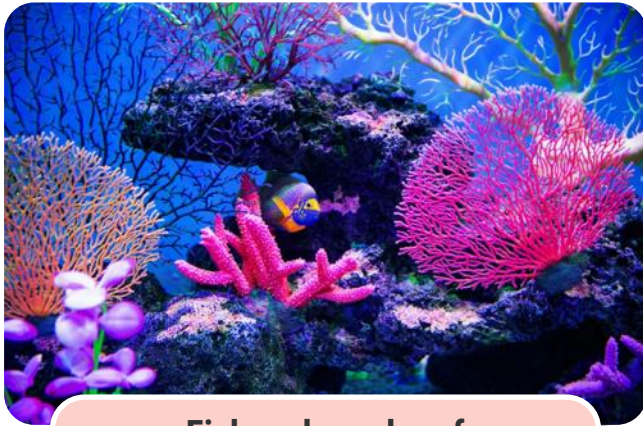


Pictured: An Interceptor boat in Malaysia.
Source: The Ocean Cleanup



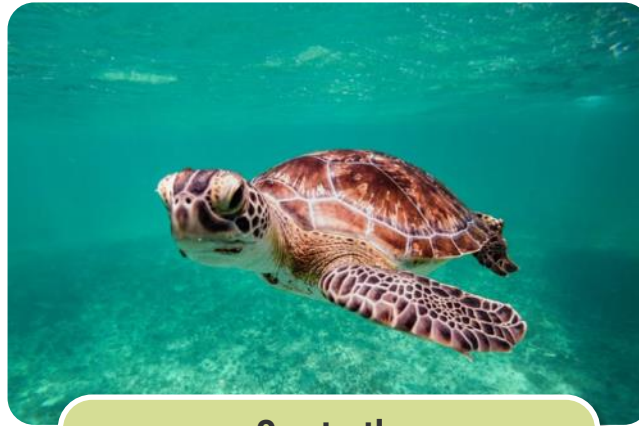
Look at the resource below, which shows some living things you might find in the world's oceans.

How can we help to look after ocean life?



Fish and coral reef

Many fish live around coral reefs. Coral reefs can provide food, shelter and safe places to hide.



Sea turtle

Sea turtles swim through the ocean. Some turtles can be harmed if they mistake plastic bags for food.



Octopus

An octopus has eight arms. Some octopuses can hide by changing colour or squeezing into small spaces.



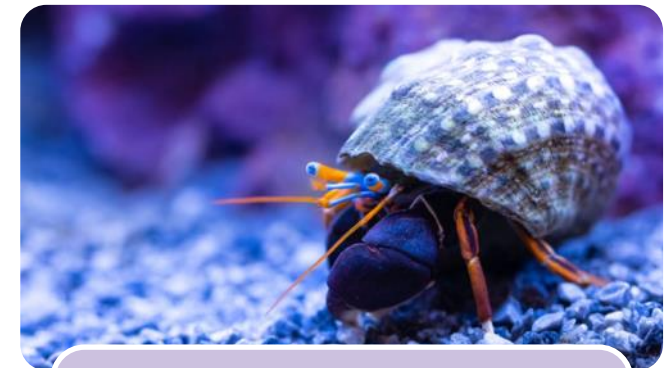
Whale

Whales are some of the largest animals in the ocean. They are mammals and come to the surface to breathe air.



Seagrass or seaweed

Seagrass and seaweed can provide shelter and food for ocean creatures.



Crab

Crabs often live near the shore or on the seabed. They use their claws to help them find food and protect themselves.

British Values



I Really Do Matter!



Which British value do you think this week's story highlights?



This highlights **Rule of Law** as the UK and other countries have laws against rubbish being dumped into rivers, seas, and oceans. These laws work to protect our environment, wildlife, and people from harm.

The story demonstrates **Mutual Respect and Tolerance**. It shows how our choices affect other living things, and how working together and listening to different ideas can help protect our planet.



Do you agree with either person, or think something different?

Protected Characteristics



Which protected characteristic do you think this week's story highlights?



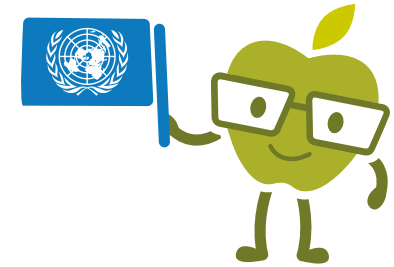
This story highlights **age** as a protected characteristic by showing that anyone can make a big difference, no matter how old they are.

Share your thoughts. Do you agree?





UN Rights of the Child



Every child has the right to the best possible health. This includes access to clean water, healthy food and a safe, clean environment. Governments must work hard to stop pollution and protect children's health.



Reflection



The oceans help support life all around the world, although they face many challenges. Sometimes big problems can feel difficult to solve, but small actions and ideas can grow into something powerful.



Useful Vocabulary



Marine

Anything that belongs to, lives in, or is connected to oceans and seas.

Tiny pieces of plastic called microplastics can also harm **marine** life...

Microplastic

Tiny bits of plastic waste that pollute oceans and rivers.

Tiny pieces of plastic called **microplastics** can also harm marine life and plastic pollution can damage habitats and beaches.

Ocean

A huge body of salt water that covers about 70% of the Earth, and is divided into five smaller oceans.

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Sea

A large area of salt water that is smaller than an ocean and is often partly surrounded by land.

... to remove rubbish from oceans and stop more plastic entering rivers and **seas**.

Solution

A way to solve a problem or a successful method used to resolve a difficult situation.

What do you believe our oceans could look like in the future if countries don't work together to come up with **solutions** to the problem of floating rubbish?

Systems

A group of different parts connected together to do a specific job.

He created the organisation The Ocean Cleanup, which designs special **systems** to remove rubbish from oceans and stop more plastic entering rivers and seas.

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

Picture News



How can we protect the oceans?

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- Look at this week's poster image and describe what you can see. It shows Dutch inventor, Boyan Slat, at a beach affected by plastic pollution in Honduras in Central America.
- Share any prior knowledge you have about oceans. Why do you think they are important?
- Read through the information found on the **Assembly Resource** all about The Ocean Cleanup and Dutch inventor, Boyan Slat. Share your thoughts on his campaign.
- As well as inventors like Boyan, who else do you think has a part to play in protecting oceans? Do we all have a shared responsibility? Why?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shares more about The Ocean Cleanup's mission. Discuss why you believe Boyan Slat kept trying to solve this problem.
- What do you believe our oceans could look like in the future if countries don't work together to come up with solutions to the problem of floating rubbish?
- In your view, could technology have an important part in protecting oceans in the future? If so, how? What might that look like?

Reflection

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Picture News



KS1 focus

What lives in our oceans?



- What do you already know about oceans? Have you ever seen the sea, visited an aquarium, watched a film about the ocean or read a book about sea life?
- What animals, plants or other living things can you name that live in or near the ocean?
- Look at **Resource 1**, which shows some living things you might find in the world's oceans. What ocean life can you see? Which ones have you seen or heard of before?
- Choose one picture from **Resource 1**. What do you notice first? Think about its shape, colour, size or how it might move. Some ocean animals swim, some crawl and some hide. Can you find examples of these in **Resource 1**?
- Some ocean life, such as coral, seagrass or seaweed, can provide food, shelter or safe places to hide. Why might this be important for other ocean creatures?
- Which ocean living thing on **Resource 1** do you think might be most affected by rubbish in the sea? Why?
- Sea turtles can mistake plastic bags for food. How else might rubbish in the ocean make life difficult or dangerous for ocean creatures?
- What do you think ocean life needs to stay safe and healthy? What could people do to help look after our oceans and the things that live there?

Reflection

Our oceans are home to many different living things. When we learn more about what lives in our oceans, we can better understand why they need to be protected.

Picture News



KS2 focus

Who else is campaigning to protect our oceans?



- What do you already know about ocean pollution? Why do you think some people might feel strongly about protecting the oceans?
- Have you ever taken part in something that helped the environment, e.g., picking up litter, recycling, reducing plastic use?
- What different ways can people campaign for something they care about?
- Look at **Resource 2**, which shares how some people and organisations are campaigning to protect our oceans. What three different campaign approaches can you see? Which campaign approach do you think would inspire the most people to take action? Explain your thinking.
- Afroz Shah began by helping to clean one beach. Why do you think small actions can sometimes grow into something much bigger?
- The Marine Conservation Society records the litter found during beach cleans. Why might collecting evidence be important when trying to solve a problem?
- Mission Blue works to protect special ocean places. Why might it be important to protect some areas of the ocean in particular?
- If you were starting your own ocean campaign, what would you want people to notice, understand or do?

Reflection

There are many ways to protect our oceans. When people care about an issue and use their skills to make a difference, it can inspire others to do the same.

Picture News



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Look at this week's Picture News map to locate the five oceans.

Explain that ocean water doesn't stay still. It moves in huge circular paths called gyres, which are created by wind and the Earth's rotation.

Using the map and a coloured pencil, draw arrows for the major currents that form the North Pacific Gyre, making sure they connect to form a loop.

Discuss that this rotating gyre acts like a giant whirlpool, pulling floating waste into its calm centre.

Plastic doesn't break down quickly, and so a large area of trapped waste has formed, this is called 'The Great Pacific Garbage Patch'. Shade this area on your map.

Think about: If plastic doesn't biodegrade (break down naturally), what do you think happens to it when it is exposed to sunlight and waves for decades? 'The Great Pacific Garbage Patch' is in international waters, meaning it does not belong to a specific country. Who do you think is responsible for it?

Option 2

Show the class a tray of clean water. Discuss how vital our oceans are to all life on Earth.

Introduce some pieces of plastic (e.g., bottle caps and tiny pieces of plastic waste) and oil (e.g., vegetable oil) into the tray.

In small groups around their own trays. Challenge the groups to clean the ocean using tools (e.g., tweezers, spoons, sponges).

Think about: How difficult was it to separate the oil from the water? What does this teach us about the challenges of cleaning up real ocean oil spills? What might happen if a sea bird dipped its wings into oil? How hard is it to catch the tiny piece of plastic? If you were a fish or a sea turtle, what might you mistake that plastic waste for?

Picture News



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Draw four simple pictures in a row across the whiteboard with arrows pointing from one to the next:

The school playground → gully (street drain) → the river → the sea/ocean.

Give the scenario that someone has dropped a bottle cap in the school playground. It begins to rain. The rain washes the bottle cap down the street into a gully. Some gullies lead directly to rivers.

Think about: Are rivers moving or still? Where do rivers lead to? Where do you think the bottle cap might end up?

Explain that the flowing water can carry waste/debris down the river into the sea or ocean.

Think about: How can we stop waste ending up in our rivers, seas and oceans? What might happen if we do not take action?

Option 2

Create a simple grid on the floor or on a large table using masking tape or a large piece of paper to form a giant bar chart template. Label the categories on the bottom axis: plastic bottles, food wrappers and paper etc.

Provide a basket of clean waste items or have the children draw their own waste items and cut them out.

In small groups, sort the items and place them into columns on the chart to build a 3D bar chart.

Think about: Which column is the tallest? How many more/fewer plastic bottles do we have than plastic bags? If three plastic bottles blow away into the sea, how many are left?

Picture News



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.positive.news/environment/young-inventor-plans-to-stop-90-of-floating-sea-plastic-by-2040/

This week's useful video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pv10tdg4fok

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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TAKEHOME

8th - 14th
June



How can we protect the oceans?



In the news this week

8th June is World Oceans Day, a time when people around the world think about how to care for seas, oceans and the creatures living in them. Dutch inventor, Boyan Slat, first became worried about ocean pollution as a teenager after seeing huge amounts of plastic while diving. He created the organisation The Ocean Cleanup, which designs special systems to remove rubbish from oceans and stop more plastic entering rivers and seas.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Why do you think oceans are important to people and animals?
- > Have you ever seen pollution near a beach, river or park? How did it make you feel?
- > What small changes could families make to help protect the oceans?
- > Should countries work together more to protect the environment?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Summer History Visits

Have you ever wondered what life was like hundreds, or even thousands, of years ago? This summer, English Heritage is encouraging families to visit famous places from the past across England.

These include Stonehenge, Tintagel Castle and Whitby Abbey. English Heritage is a charity that looks after important places from the past across England. It cares for more than 400 historic sites and over one million objects from long ago, helping people learn about history and explore how people lived many years ago. Staff and volunteers work all year to care for these special places and help visitors discover the stories behind them. Sometimes, they even



Pictured: Stonehenge is one of England's most famous landmarks. **Source:** Canva.

uncover exciting discoveries, including hidden bunkers and 500-year-old skeletons! Matt Thompson from English Heritage said, 'We're connecting people with the past – and each other'. Every year, thousands of children explore English Heritage sites on school trips. This summer, the charity hopes even more people will step back in time by visiting these special places. ***What can we learn from places and objects from long ago?***

Plastic Puffin

For the past 10 years, conservationists have been trying to bring puffins back to a tiny island in the Irish Sea called the Calf of Man. Today, three puffin colonies can be seen there – but not all the birds are what they seem! Some of the puffins are actually plastic models! The fake birds have been carefully placed around the island to trick real puffins into thinking it is already a happy, busy and safe place to live. Puffins love nesting in large groups, called colonies, and it can take a long time for them to return to an area on their own. Speakers hidden among the colonies



Pictured: Puffins like to nest in large groups called colonies. **Source:** Canva.

also play puffin calls to help welcome the birds back! Marine conservation officer, Lara Howe, from the The Manx Wildlife Trust said puffins might 'hear the calls, come closer, see the decoys and think, "this is a great place"'. The puffin plan seems to be working as real puffins have been spotted near the fake birds. Some have even been collecting materials to build nests! ***Did you know? Baby puffins are called pufflings!***

Why do people celebrate different things in different ways?



We don't all celebrate the same things, but we can still respect each other's celebrations.
Jude

Are You Having a Laugh?

Dr. Jacqueline Harding, early childhood expert at Middlesex University in London has concluded a study that shows when children laugh, it also boosts their development! Dr Harding's study finds that making children laugh can help make their brains more resilient. This is because laughter is a complex biological phenomenon, it builds deep emotional connections and soothes youngsters' nervous systems.



Pictured: Children laughing. **Source:** Canva

The research also found that children's laughter and play contributed to healthy brain growth, emotional well-being, and social bonding.

'When we see children laugh, we witness the brilliance of the brain in action: learning, connecting, and growing,' said Dr Harding. 'Neuroimaging studies suggest that laughter plays a significant role in brain activity, as humour is cognitively demanding and engages neuro-plasticity. It challenges the brain to predict and resolve tension between conflicting ideas, providing a mental workout that enhances creative thought and activates both the working memory and frontal lobes.'

Can you help someone to laugh? Do you think it is good for everyone to laugh?



Pictured: A child laughing. **Source:** Canva.

Moon Base Mission



Pictured: Image to show what NASA's moon base may look like. **Source:** NASA on X.

In a recent press release, NASA, the USA's space agency, announced lots of plans for its upcoming Moon base missions. NASA – which stands for National Aeronautics and Space Administration – posted, 'Coming soon to a Moon near you. We're building a Moon Base at the lunar South Pole. Beginning with robotic systems and evolving toward continuous human operations, humanity's first outpost on the Moon will support new discoveries and prepare us for our first crewed missions to Mars.' The Moon Base will be a home base for Artemis astronauts, who will live and work on the Moon. Humanity's first lunar

outpost could look like a well-structured big city. It will cover a large area with many different terrains, as different parts of the base will require land with a variety of physical features. Phase One, which is called 'Experiment and Learn', will run from now until 2029. This will be a series of robotic missions to assess the region, test technologies, and prepare for future astronaut missions. China's space agency is also planning a lunar mission.

If you designed a base on the Moon, what would you include? How would you like it to look?

Why do people celebrate different things in different ways?



I think people celebrate different things because families are all different.

Ada

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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