

Ocean Ranger Activity Station: Ocean Plastic Pollution Awareness through Art



Objective:

Engage youth and adults in hands-on activity to increase awareness of ocean plastic pollution problems and solutions

Materials:

- Scissors, plastic trash (collect a few weeks' worth), animal shapes, glue (is hot glue ok?), hand stapler.
- Educational visuals: [gyres](#), plastic soup jars, waste reduction tip sheets, [albatross picture](#)

Instructions:

1. Ranger selects animal shape. Suggest a shark, turtle or manta ray.
 - a. Flat pre-cut form or cut one out of reused cardboard, plastic, old banner, etc.
 - b. 3-D form. Turtle shell from top of plastic bottle, fish bottle as body. Ranger can then fill in the container with different plastics that the animal would eat (demonstrating how animals confuse it with food, creating serious problems).
2. Rangers glue on plastic pieces as fins, eyes, mouth, etc.
3. Provide some completed examples.
4. Discuss the negative impacts of plastic on these animals and their ecosystems as the Rangers create their animals. (Examples: turtles eat plastic bags as they look like one of their favorite foods: jelly fish. Plastic doesn't go away, it just gets smaller and becomes a toxic soup in our oceans.)
5. Talk about solutions to the problem, including refusing (skip the straw, buy less stuff), reusing (reusable water bottles, bring Tupperware for take-out/left-overs), and recycling (including how to properly recycle their animal creation). Ask for their ideas. Ask for their commitment—what is one thing they can try for a week? Ask them to spread the message: what is one thing they can tell others about for a week?

Images: Problem

These can be printed for the outreach event if desired.



Plastic pollution by numbers

- Thrown away: **35 billion** plastic water bottles a year in the US
- Approximately **500 billion** plastic bags used annually worldwide
- Over **40 percent** of plastic usage is in packaging
- Plastics are estimated to account for **8 percent** of world's oil production
- **Over 250 species** known to have ingested or become tangled in plastic
- A 2002 UN study estimated **\$7 trillion** a year of economic risk from plastic pollution

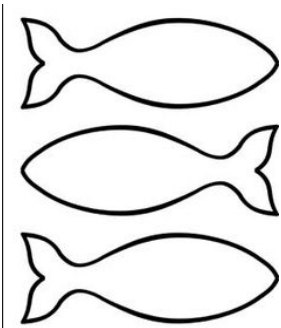
Source: Plastic Oceans

Images Art Ideas:

Turtle flat



Fish flat



Turtle bottle

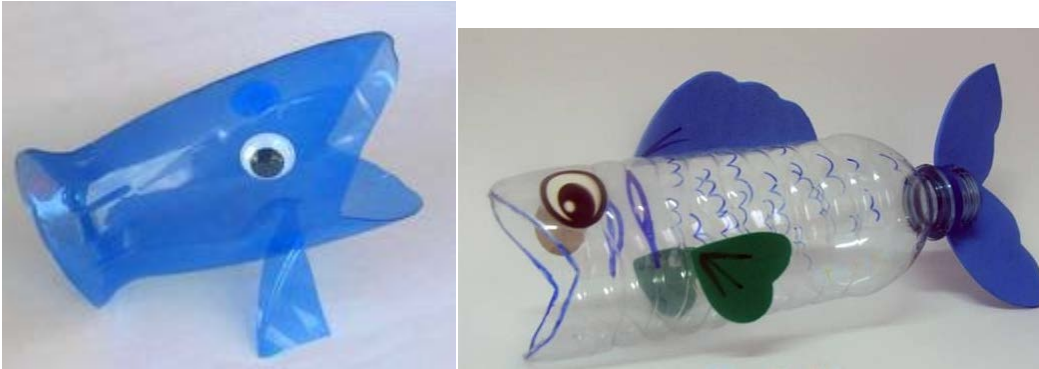


Fish bottle

1. Closed water bottle



2. Open water bottle



3. Large bottle

