Getting Started

This guide is designed to help you and your team in starting the research on the ocean waste crisis. You do not need to turn in your answers to the questions for the Contest.

WHERE TO LOOK

Visit your local and school libraries to find magazines, books, and newspapers about the environmental challenge that ocean life is facing.

Internet is a great source of information but also can have misleading stories. Keep in mind:

- Look for sources where multiple writers, editors, and fact-checkers have reviewed the information.
- Personal sources – videos, photos, or posts created by individuals – can be helpful but always double-check the information with another credible source.

Supervisors – Discuss with your team what makes a source useful and credible.

STARTING QUESTIONS

As you start learning about the ocean waste problem, see if you can answer these questions:

- What types of waste are found in the ocean? Plastic? Glass? Food?
- Where does the waste come from?
- Who is generating the ocean waste?
- Why does waste end up in the ocean?
- Where in the ocean is it found? Can you point it out on the map?
- How much waste ends up in the ocean each year? Can you compare it to the size of an object/place/structure that you are familiar with?
- Who is affected?
- Are humans affected? How?
TAKE A BREAK
After the initial research, discuss as a team what you have learned thus far. What is the most memorable fact that you have learned? Is there a number, picture, diagram, or quote that made a strong impression on you?

Start narrowing down the topic of your future artwork. Your team can choose to do more research on a specific aspect (e.g. “plastic straws and sea birds”) or start planning your artwork if you feel your research is sufficient.

CREATING MASTERPIECE
• What do you want others to know about the ocean waste crisis?
• Which form of artwork will you create? Sculpture? Collage? Mural?
• Where do you plan to find waste materials and how will you recycle them?

DO’S AND DON’T’S
✓ DO travel in groups and be accompanied by an adult supervisor when collecting recycled art material
✓ DO clean the materials that you found before using
✓ DO watch out for sharp objects
✓ DO find an open, well-ventilated area to store your collected materials
✗ DON’T handle biohazards or chemical hazards (e.g. chemical waste, medical waste) unless supervised by an expert
✗ DON’T enter areas that may pose threats to personal safety

DON’T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL FORM
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