

## Mini-lesson

# Caring for the Ocean



grades 4-5



20 minutes

### Objectives

- Students consider what they love about the ocean.
- Students learn ways to care for the ocean.
- Students understand that small actions are impactful.

### Essential Questions

- What does it mean to take care of something?
- Why is it important to take care of the ocean?
- How can I develop my relationship with the ocean?



### MATERIALS

Video: [How to Care for the Ocean](#) (6:35)  
Notebook or piece of paper

### THEMES

Connection  
Gratitude  
Awareness

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### Vocabulary

**CARE:** verb: to take interest, look after, or protect someone or something.

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### Before you Begin

Watch the Video: [How to Care for the Ocean](#) (6:35)

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### Program Connections

This activity is focused on giving to the environment—a theme that runs through all of our core programs. Visit [Our Programs](#) page to learn more.

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# THINK • GIVE

This Mini-lesson was written by ThinkGive Student Advisory Board member, Katie O'Brien

## Ocean Favorites

Students stand in concentric circles. The students in the inner circle should face outward, and students in the outer circle should face in so that they each have a partner. After each round, have students share answers with the class quickly then rotate to a new partner.

**Round 1:** What does it mean to care for something?

**Round 2:** What do you love about the ocean or another body of water (e.g., ponds, lakes, streams, creeks)?

**Round 3:** What are small things people do in order to care for the ocean?

## Caring for the Ocean

Watch: [How to Care for the Ocean](#) (6:35). This video highlights the importance of caring for the ocean and the various ways that people are making a difference. As students watch, they should write any thoughts or observations in a notebook or piece of paper.

### Discuss:

- What did you learn from the video?
- What interests you most about the ocean? How can you use that interest to help make positive change?
- Even if you live far from a body of water, what are ways you can care for the ocean?

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# CONNECT + CLOSE

## Pair/Share:

Students take a few minutes to brainstorm and share one or two ways that they might be able to care for the ocean (or a nearby body of water) (e.g., use metal instead of plastic straws, cut up plastic rings from soda six-packs, use a reusable water bottle).

## ACTION

In the coming days/week, students consider the ideas that came out of their brainstorm, then take action to try to change one behavior to care for the ocean—and then to make their change in behavior a habit!

## REFLECTION

Lead a discussion or allow students to journal, use the following questions as a guide:

- How did you care for the ocean?
- How did it feel to change a behavior?
- How can you continue to take action to care for the ocean?