



**Goal 14 – Life Below Water**

To sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, as well as address the impacts of ocean acidification. Enhancing conservation and the sustainable use of ocean-based resources through international law will also help mitigate some of the challenges facing our oceans.

**Fact of the day**

The ocean covers three quarters of the Earth’s surface and represents 99 percent of the living space on the planet by volume.

**Act now**

***The Sea Starts Here***  
 30 minutes 

The sea is not something that most of us really understand. At most, we have been on the edge of it at the beach, or passed across a section of it in the ferry. We probably don’t make a connection between what we do in our daily lives, and the pollution of the sea.

Print off a copy of *The Sea Starts Here* worksheet, or grab some scrap paper to explore this. When we think about pollution of the sea we usually think of waste pipes going into the sea, or waste dumped from ships. However, everything that enters lakes, streams, rivers and even groundwater is likely to end up in the sea.

All of the water going down drains on the street, or coming out of the treatment plant taking waste water from your house, will find its way to the sea.

The same goes for waste runoff from farms, and rubbish blowing away from landfills or just discarded on the beach. We often think that things that we dump, or wash down drains simply ‘goes away’ Well, there is no such place as ‘away’; instead we have ‘the sea’.

To explore this, onto your sheet draw in all of the places where waste starts before it finds its way to the sea.

***Make cleaner cleaners!***  
 1-2 hours 

It might not make much sense, but many household cleaners actually cause pollution. These chemical contaminants can cause a range of issues when they reach rivers and the sea.

There are safer alternatives available in shops. You can also try making your own ‘cleaner’ cleaners from simple ingredients at home. Use our *Greener Cleaners* worksheet for advice on experimenting yourself with designing your very own Greener Cleaner! (Mini-business, anyone?)

***13,000 12,999 12,998...***  
 30 minutes 

Marine pollution, an overwhelming majority of which comes from land-based sources, is reaching alarming levels, with an average of 13,000 pieces of plastic litter to be found on every square kilometre of ocean. When we reduce the amount of plastic we throw away, we reduce the plastic ending up in the sea.

Choose one disposable plastic item, and figure how to replace it. Things like disposable plastic bottles could be replaced by refillable bottles or flasks. Plastic cups could be done away with by reusable cups. And plastic straws...could just be done away with! After you have dealt with one, why not do another, and encourage friends and family to do the same.

**What to do next**

Once finished your own action, share it on social media (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter). Tag **@ScoutingIreland** and using the hashtags **#scoutsforsdgs #scoutsie #17days17sdgs**.

This will allow scouts not only from Ireland, but all over the world, to see your actions and use that as inspiration to go and make a positive impact in their communities!



# SDG14 – Life Below Water

## The Sea Starts Here

Pollution in the sea comes from many places. Have a think about the routes for waste and pollution to reach the sea, and draw them in here.

**The Sea  
Begins  
Here**



*and here...*

*and here...*

*and here...*

*and here...*

*and here...*

*and here...*



SUP stands for Single Use Plastics. It also stands for Stand-Up Paddleboard. Ditch one for the other; don't just save the seas but get out and enjoy them!

# #17days17sdgs



# SDG14 – Life Below Water

## Greener Cleaners

It's hard to imagine that 'cleaners' could actually be polluting the oceans, but many of them contain harsh contaminants. The solution? Make your own from milder ingredients.

You might come up with other methods or solutions, but here are a few starting points:-

- ✓ Lemon Juice
- ✓ Vinegar
- ✓ Bread Soda
- ✓ Elbow Grease

(Note: Real elbow grease does not come in a bottle or jar! It is a term for manual motion, such as scrubbing!)

### Here's what worked best...

Tea/Coffee-stained mug

Kitchen worktop

Saucepans

Toilet

Stove top

Sinks and wash-hand basins

Kitchen Floor

Now that we have the materials, try them out for various cleaning jobs. A science experiment that your parents are happy to see you carrying out in the kitchen!

For each of the cleaning tasks, you could start by trying out individual components, then try some of them together. You might find that some need to sit on the stains for a while, while others might need that bit of elbow grease!

You might be surprised how well the combination of hot water and elbow grease works for many jobs!

From what you have learned here, do you think that you could come up with better solutions (literally!) for cleaners to bring on camp?



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