

## GRADE 1-2 LEARNING EXPERIENCE

# Jellyfish vs. Plastic Bag

### Summary

Students will learn about the epidemic of plastic waste in the oceans, and its impact on wildlife. After learning how sea turtles often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, students will brainstorm ways to keep our oceans clean by reducing and recycling plastics.

### Objective

To create awareness of the impact of plastics on the environment and drive behaviour change by teaching students to use reusable bags when shopping.

### Pre-Activity

## “JELLYFISH” OR “PLASTIC BAG” GAME

#### DIRECTIONS

There is an epidemic of plastic in our oceans. Using a map, explain that there is a “garbage island” the size of Québec swirling in the Pacific Ocean.

The “garbage island” is mostly micro plastic—but before it becomes “micro,” the plastic enters the ocean as bags and other waste.

Explain that wildlife, including sea turtles, often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish and they eat them. This can cause animals to become very ill and even die.

### GAME

Ask for two volunteers to play the “plastic bag or jellyfish” game. Each student pretends they are a sea turtle. When they see a jellyfish appear on screen, they hit it with their fly swatter to receive a point. If a plastic bag appears and they swat it, they lose a point. The player with the most points wins.

Have a student or teacher keep score. Each round takes 90 seconds. Play as many rounds as desired.

The Divert NS website has a link to the game:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwXVw4oyTmU&feature=youtu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwXVw4oyTmU&feature=youtu)

#### MATERIALS

World map

Internet access  
and projector

#### DURATION

10 mins

#### MATERIALS

Fly swatters

Internet access  
and projector

#### DURATION

15 mins  
(or longer for  
more rounds)

### MAIN LEARNING OUTCOME

GRADE:

1 2

SUBJECT:

Social Studies



Grade 2 / Outcome 3

Students will give examples of how we make decisions as consumers.

Indicators

- Ask questions about how people make decisions to purchase an item
- Discuss and share ideas (both print and digital) about how we make decisions as consumers through listening, speaking, creating images, and using simple words/phrases
- Create criteria to determine why someone may purchase an item

### CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

English Language Arts



**Outcome 1:** Students will communicate effectively and clearly and respond personally and critically.

Art



**Outcome 1:** Students will explore and manipulate a range of materials, technologies, and processes to create a variety of artworks that express feelings, ideas, and understandings.

Science



**Grade 1 / Outcome 2:** Students will investigate needs and characteristics of different living things, including humans.

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## Activity

### THE PLASTIC BAG PROBLEM

#### DIRECTIONS

#### GROUP WORK

Break students into small groups and ask them to discuss the following questions:

- What do we use plastic bags for?
- What happens to plastic bags after we use them?
- What impacts can plastic bags have on the environment (i.e. the ocean)?

Have groups report their answers to the class.

#### MATERIALS

n/a

#### DURATION

15 min

#### READING AND COMPREHENSION

Review vocabulary words below, then read "The Plastic Bag Problem" article from the Scholastic website.

Vocabulary: **LANDFILL** **DECOMPOSE** **RECYCLE**

Definitions with photos can be found on the Scholastic article page. (Once you have loaded the page below, click on the "WORDS" tab on the bottom right.)

#### MATERIALS

"Plastic Bag Problem" article  
(See link to Scholastic website)

#### DURATION

30 min

#### LINK TO ARTICLE

Scholastic News, April 2015, Edition 2 (Vol 71, No 7)  
[sni.scholastic.com/SN2/04\\_04\\_15\\_SN2/book#/1](http://sni.scholastic.com/SN2/04_04_15_SN2/book#/1)

**OPTIONS:** Read as a class, do a "read aloud," read in pairs, or read independently

Complete comprehension questions on page 4 of the article. You may choose to do this as a class or individually.

#### JELLYFISH CRAFT

Create a "Jellyfish in a bottle" craft. Click on the link for detailed instructions.

#### LINK TO CRAFT:

PBS Kids (Bhoomplay Blog)  
[www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/jellyfish-craft/](http://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/jellyfish-craft/)

#### MATERIALS

Plastic bag, water  
bottle, string,  
food coloring,  
scissors

#### DURATION

60 min

## Post-Activity

### CREATE A POSTER

#### DIRECTIONS

#### OPTION 1

Have the students create a poster that shows the dangers plastic bags pose to sea turtles. The poster should also offer ideas on what to do with a used plastic bag (i.e. recycle, reuse, repurpose).

#### OPTION 2

Have the students write a short exit pass or journal entry on what they learned from this activity.

## Assessment

**FORMATIVE** Evaluate student comprehension through monitoring class discussions and activities.

**SUMMATIVE (OPTIONAL)** Option to use evaluation rubric to evaluate posters, exit passes or journal entries created by students.



#### ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

There are many great opportunities throughout the year to highlight the 3Rs in the classroom. Check out these annual events:

**Waste Reduction Week** October (3<sup>rd</sup> week)

**Earth Day** April 22

**Compost Awareness Week** May (1<sup>st</sup> full week)

**Environment Week** June (1<sup>st</sup> full week)

#### MATERIALS

Poster paper and markers, etc.

#### DURATION

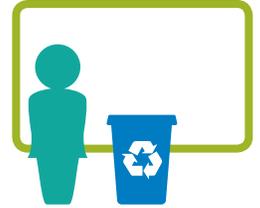
30 min

#### MATERIALS

Scrap paper for exit passes

#### DURATION

15 mins



#### WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATORS

Divert NS provides funding to municipalities to deliver waste reduction education to schools across the province.

Your local waste reduction educator(s) provides the following services, and more, free of charge!

- classroom presentations
- green team set up
- advice on bins and signage
- tours of local waste facilities
- school waste audits

To find out more, visit [divertns.ca](http://divertns.ca)

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## ABOUT DIVERT NS

Divert NS is a not-for-profit organization championing recycling in Nova Scotia. For over 20 years we've helped build a culture of recycling through environmental stewardship, education, and innovation. Divert NS operates the **Beverage Container Deposit-Refund Program** and the **Used Tire Management Program**. In addition, we work in collaboration with government,

industry, and academia to divert waste-resources from landfill. Divert NS, in partnership with municipalities, delivers education and awareness programs to schools, businesses, and community groups. Divert NS also works to develop stewardship agreements and funds innovative research and development initiatives.

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