

# Educate and Empower Young People

TEACH SCHOOL CHILDREN ABOUT PLASTIC SO THEY UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM AND WHAT THEY CAN DO ABOUT IT







# Welcome to the Education Resources

**Young people are powerful agents of change but are rarely provided with the knowledge and experience to address plastic pollution.**

Our Ocean Plastic Academy (OPA) education resources are Government-approved and curriculum-aligned. By sharing OPA with educators across Greece, they can equip their students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to lead a plastic waste revolution in their school and beyond.



“  
**It is my personal belief  
 that [this] programme  
 should be implemented  
 in every single school on  
 the planet,** no matter  
 their location, as the  
 problem of ocean plastics  
 affects us all. We will be  
 using this programme as  
 the cornerstone of our  
 environmental education.”

Matthew Williams,  
 Headteacher Byron College, Athens

## Contents

**This toolkit contains:**

### Introduction template.

Use this to spread the word about Ocean Plastics Academy.

### Education resources.

14 [lessons](#) for 5- to 14-year-olds  
 Teacher [guidebook](#).

### A poster.

An eye-catching [poster](#) to help get the word out.





## Educate and Empower Young People

# Introduction template

Use this introduction to find out more about Ocean Plastics Academy. You can also use it as a template to share with any education contacts who you think should start using OPA resources with their students.



## What is Ocean Plastics Academy?

**Ocean Plastics Academy (OPA) is a movement that empowers students, teachers and their communities to tackle the plastic pollution crisis. [Link to website.](#)**

The more we understand this crisis, the better we will protect our environment, our economy and our health from the threat of plastic. And, as informed citizens, we can hold our leaders to account, or become leaders ourselves.

We used the UNESCO Learning Objectives for ocean literacy to create an appropriate set of learning opportunities. These learning objectives can be found in the OPA teacher workbook (GR).

In total, there are 14 resources. You can access them all here. [Link](#)

**The more we understand this crisis, the better we will protect our environment, our economy and our health from the threat of plastic.**





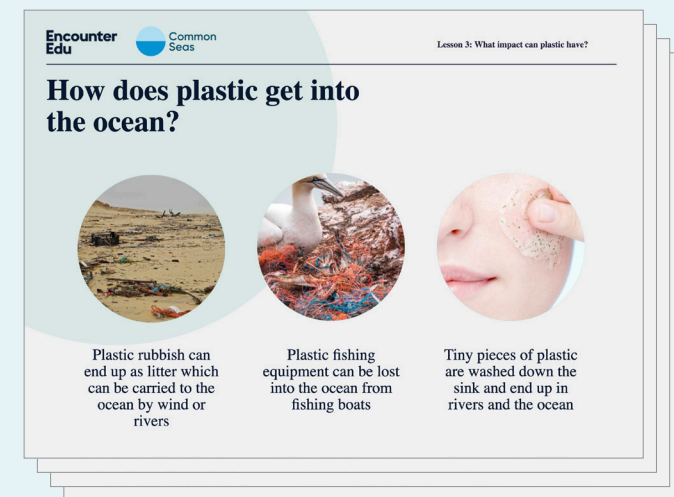
## Lessons for Ages 5-7

**Lesson 1:** What are plastics?

**Lesson 2:** Where are plastics?

**Lesson 3:** What impact can plastic have?

**Lesson 4:** What can I do?



## Lessons for Ages 7-11

**Lesson 1:** What are plastics? Part 1

**Lesson 2:** What are plastics? Part 2

**Lesson 3:** Where are plastics? Part 1

**Lesson 4:** Where are plastics? Part 2

**Lesson 5:** What impact can plastic have? Part 1

**Lesson 6:** What impact can plastic have? Part 2

**Lesson 7:** What can I do? Part 1

**Lesson 8:** What can I do? Part 2

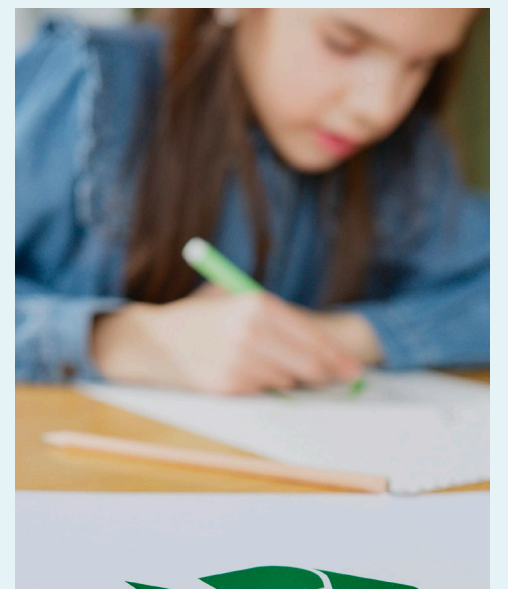
**Lesson 9:** Design and Technology – The problem of plastics

**Lesson 10:** Design and Technology – Plastic Solutions

**You can access all these resources [here](#).**



**Lesson 9:** Design and Technology – The problem of plastics





# How can teachers use Ocean Plastics Academy?

**With off-the-shelf lesson plans, presentations and activities, Ocean Plastics Academy is designed to be used flexibly to suit the needs of each school.**

The resources complement curricular subjects such as science (biology, chemistry, and physics), geography, maths and technology. There are recommendations in the teacher book on each lesson's links to the Greek curriculum.

**OPA can also be used as part of environmental education or education for sustainable development projects teachers may plan with their students.**

The lessons can be adapted and changed to suit the needs of the teachers and students of each school. There is a suite of supporting multimedia resources online; these are references throughout the lesson plans as well as the PowerPoint slides. Educators will need access to a digital projector or interactive whiteboard. Students with individual devices can also access the material without needing an account.

If you would like to co-organise a teacher training activity with us please get in touch with our education team.  
[vasiliki@commonseas.com](mailto:vasiliki@commonseas.com)



# Cross-curricular Subjects





## What's in it for the students?

Through Ocean Plastics Academy young people will:

- Understand the plastic problem and develop the skills and agency to help solve it.
- Learn to measure and reduce plastic waste, and lead a change in their school and community.
- Connect with their community, spending time and sharing skills across generations.
- Learn about the waste hierarchy and develop solutions based on the 6Rs (3E+3A = ελαττώνω, επαναχρησιμοποιώ, επιδιορθώνω, ανακυκλώνω, αρνούμαι, αναθεωρώ).
- Learn about the circular economy and how they can be part of it.
- Develop 21st century skills, like critical thinking, creative problem-solving and systems thinking.

## Transform education inside and outside the classroom.

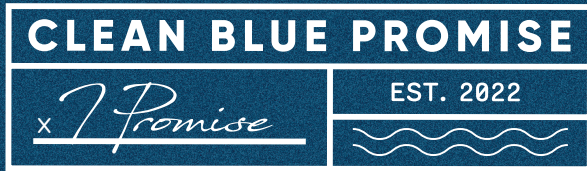
we want every child to understand the issue of marine plastic pollution and how they can be part of a plastic waste free future.



[Link to download poster](#)







# Thank you

