

My link to the ocean

25 mins

Guides

About this activity

Learn about the amazing marine life that lives in the seas around the UK and how you can tackle the problems created by humans.

Outcomes:

- Learn about the problem of litter in the ocean
- Find the shortest route to the ocean
- Take action in the local area to tackle the ocean litter problem

You will need:

For each group or person:

- [Life in the UK seas image](#) with a pen and paper to note answers or [answer sheet](#)
- [Our dirty beaches image](#)
- Map or atlas of the UK or access to [Google Earth](#)

My link to the ocean

In the UK we're never more than 70 miles away from the sea. Our actions on land impact the ocean and the life within it.

Part 1 Life in UK seas

What do you think of when you hear the word 'ocean'? Are there particular colours, sounds, smells? Does anyone have a favourite marine animal? Do you have a favourite place by the sea?

1. In small groups or individually, look at the [Life in UK seas image](#). How many of the 15 species can you name in 5 minutes?
2. Who named the most? Were there any surprises?
3. How do you feel when you look at this image?

'Life in the UK seas' answers

1. Painted top shell, 2. Short-snouted seahorse, 3. Hedgehog sponge, 4. Long-clawed squat lobster, 5. Great (king) scallop, 6. Common (edible) sea urchin, 7. Plumose anemone, 8. Thornback ray, 9. Compass jellyfish, 10. Basking shark, 11. Sea slug, 12. Common starfish, 13. Edible crab, 14. Pink and white sea fans, 15. Common cuttlefish

Part 2 Our dirty beaches

Look at the [Our dirty beaches image](#). How do you feel when you look at this image? What do you think the impact of the litter might be on the ocean and the animals that live there?

Part 3 My link to the ocean

80% of litter enters the ocean from the land. It is washed into rivers and drains and from there into the ocean. Find your link to the ocean:

1. Using [Google Earth](#) or a map, find your location.
2. Find your nearest river.
3. If you're using a map, follow the river until you get the mouth of river (the estuary) and reach the sea.
4. If you're using Google Earth, type the name of your nearest river into the search bar. Click 'more information' to find the mouth of the river, where it enters the ocean. Type this into the search bar to see the location on the map.

Part 4 Pollution solutions

Wherever you live, you can help to save our seas. What could you do to make a difference?

1. Can you carry out a litter pick or beach clean? [Visit our website](#) for guidance on organising a pick.

OR

2. 70% of litter in the ocean is made of plastic. Could you reduce the amount of plastic you use? Our [Beauty and the beach activity](#) will help you reduce the waste you create.

OR

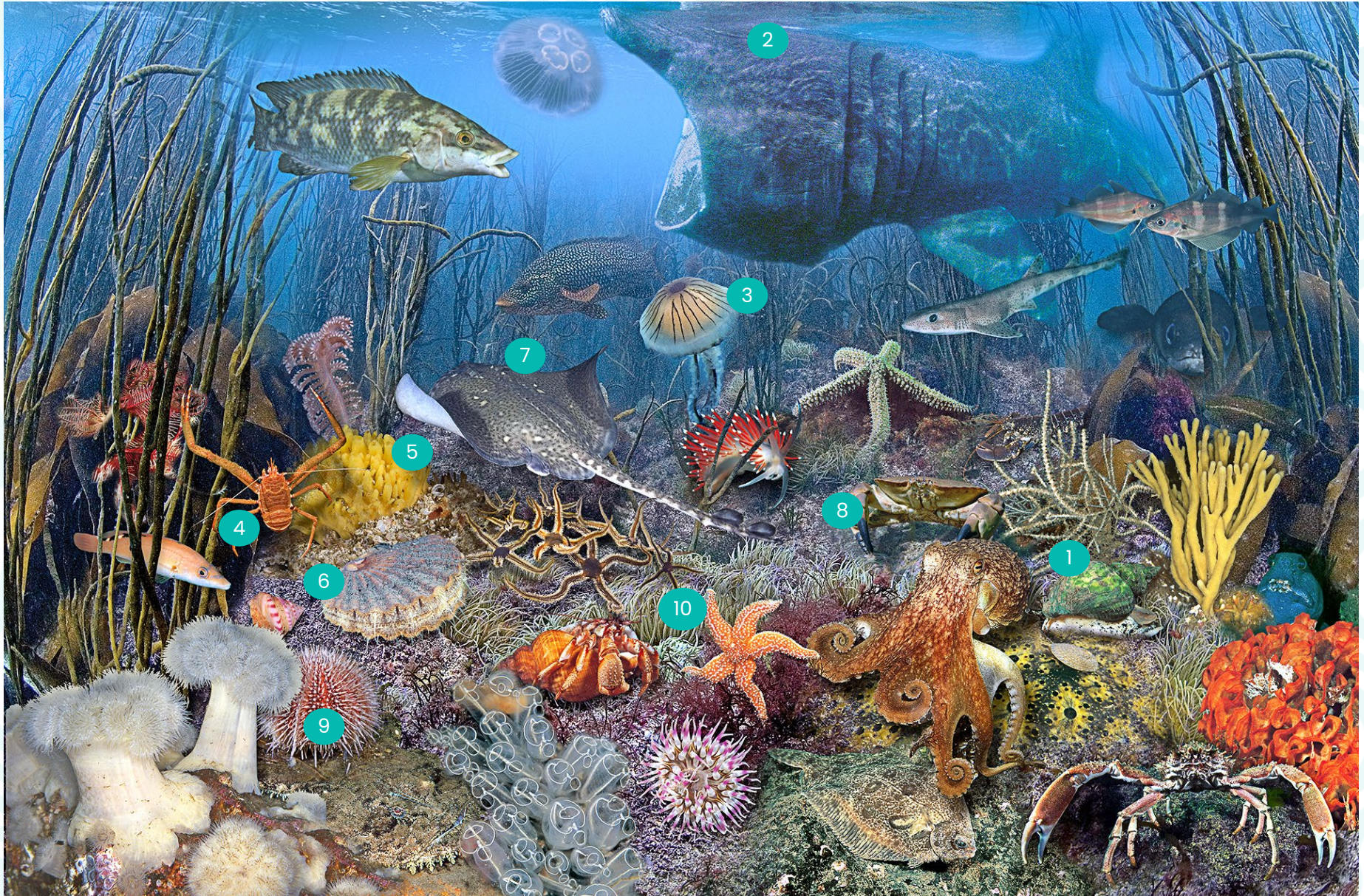
3. Wet wipes and sanitary items made up nearly 9% of the litter found on UK beaches in 2020. Our [Unflushables activity](#) will help you tackle this problem.

OR

3. Every time clothes are washed they release thousands of microfibres. These end up in rivers and seas. Could you take the [Fashion challenge](#) and reduce microfibre release?

Life in UK seas

Can you name these living things found in the seas around the UK?



Name: _____

Life in UK seas

Write down the names of the creatures you know

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Our dirty beaches with Steve



Credit: Natasha Ewins