

# Ocean pollution problem

45 mins

Rainbows

## About this activity

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

## Outcomes:

- Learn about the variety of life living in the seas around the UK
- Learn about the problem of litter in the ocean

## You will need:

*For each group or person:*

- [Life in the UK seas image](#)
- [Life in the UK seas answer sheet](#)
- [Our dirty beaches worksheet](#)
- [Marine litter vs Marine life worksheet](#)
- [Social media template](#)
- Pen or pencil

# Ocean pollution problem

## 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 10 species can you name in 5 minutes? You could use the [answer sheet](#) to note answers, or a piece of paper.
2. Who named the most?
3. How do you feel when you look at this image?

## Part 2

### Our dirty beaches

1. Thousands of items of litter are found on UK beaches every year. Look at the [Our dirty beaches image](#). Can you find the items listed in the Official Litter Guide in 5 minutes?
2. How do you feel when you think about the amount of litter on our beaches and in the ocean?

## Part 3

### Marine life vs litter

1. Look at the [Marine litter vs Marine life image](#) and match the litter item with the animals most likely to be affected by it.

## Part 4

### Pollution solutions

80% of litter enters the ocean from the land. It's washed into rivers and drains and from there into the ocean – every piece of litter dropped in the street can pollute the seas. What could you do to make a difference?

1. Can you carry out a litter pick or beach clean? Our website contains [support and advice](#) on how to do this safely.
- OR
2. Think about where you see litter in your area. Could you make posters for these places to persuade people not to drop litter?
- OR
3. Can you use your families' social media accounts to tell people about why we should never drop litter? You could use the [social media template](#) to help you.

### Life in UK seas – answers

1. Common whelk
2. Basking shark
3. Compass jellyfish
4. Long-clawed squat lobster
5. Hedgehog sponge
6. Great (king) scallop
7. Thornback ray
8. Edible crab
9. Common (or edible) sea urchin
10. Common starfish

### Marine Litter vs Life – answers

Marine Litter – plastic bag, microplastic, fishing net, plastic drink yoke

Turtle – plastic bags, net, yoke

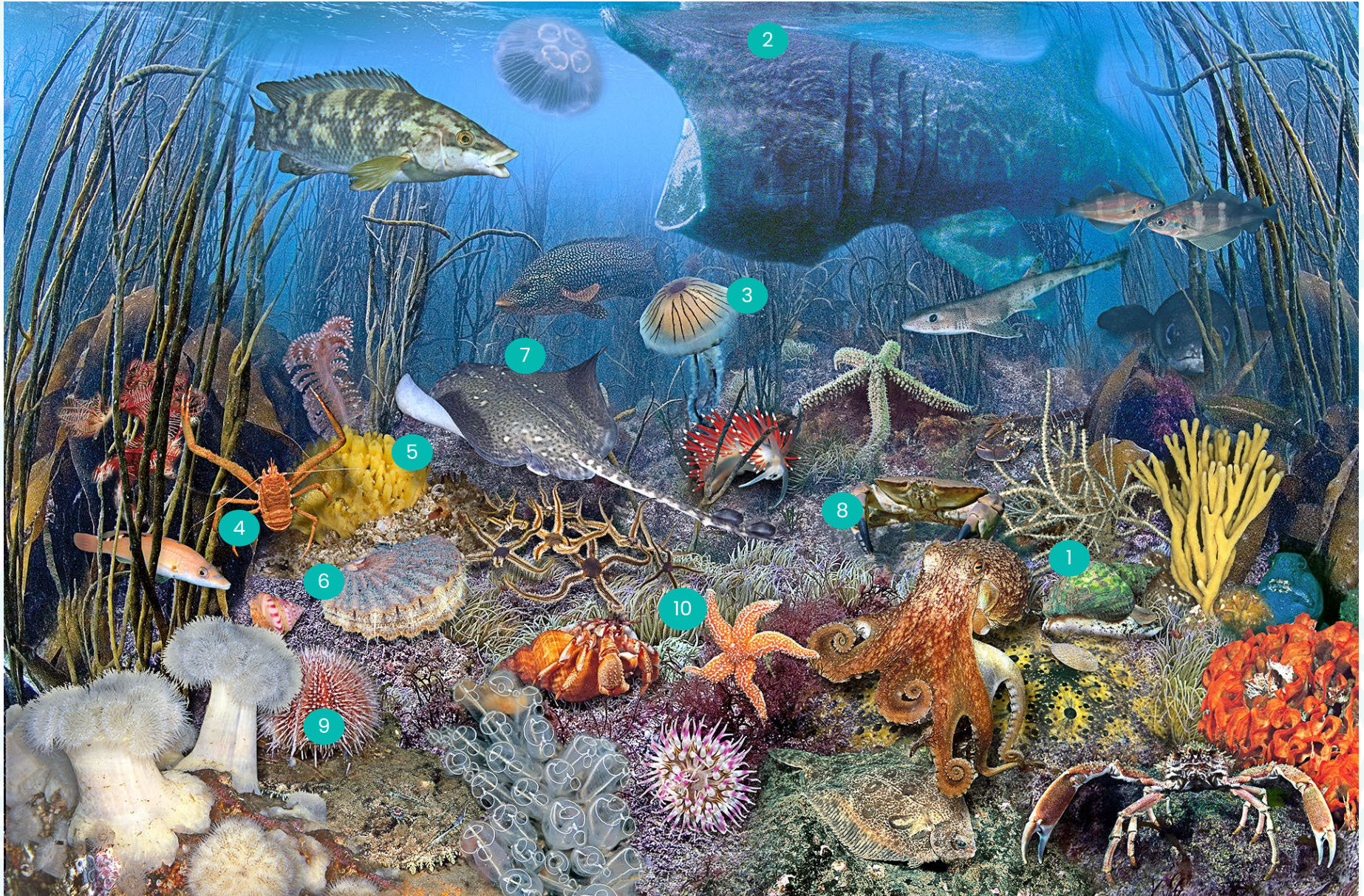
Plankton – microplastics

Small fish – microplastics, net, yoke

Dolphin – plastic bags, net, yoke

# 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

Can you find all the items listed in the Official Litter Guide?



## Official Litter Guide



balloon



plastic bag



food carton



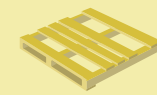
drink carton



glass bottle



drink can



wooden pallet



plastic bottle



tyre

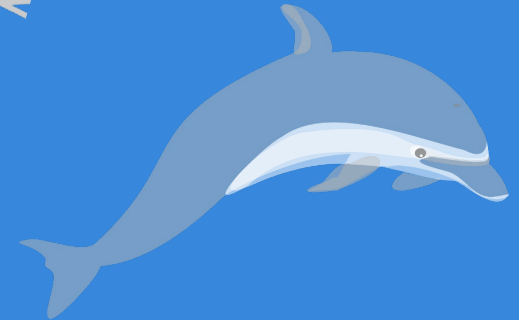
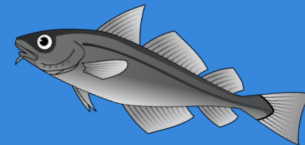
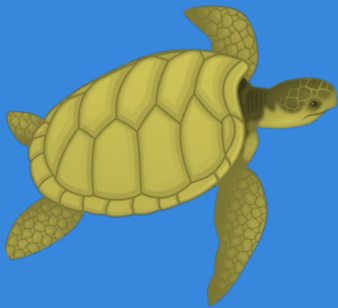
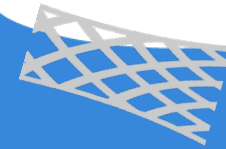
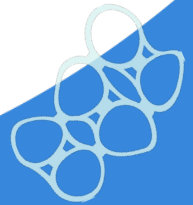


cotton bud

Total number of items

# Marine Life vs Marine Litter

How does litter harm wildlife?



# Don't drop litter!

Write and draw your message for people in the square below.

Once you're finished, spread the message by asking people you know with social media to take a photo and post it on their accounts.



## Tips!

- Use bright colours to attract people's attention
- Write a simple message or catchy slogan
- Draw an attention-grabbing picture