

Let's Go Fishing (Grades K-5)

Objective: By fishing for trash, students will learn how pollution affects animals, plants and people.

California State Standards:

Science: K: 1a. 1st: 4a. 2nd: 4c. 3rd: 3c. 4th: 3a. 5th: 6a.

Background:

Oceanic ecosystems are filled with living plants and animals, but some non-living items like water, rocks, and sand naturally exist in these environments too. Unfortunately, these ecosystems can become polluted by the action of people throwing trash into the ocean or on to the ground. Today we will go fishing for trash in the ocean and explore how pollution affects life in this ecosystem.

Materials: (included in trunk)

- Fishing pole
- 12 Trash Objects (fork, Styrofoam bowl, animal waste, fertilizer container, pesticide container, fishing line, plastic bag, food wrapper, fork, straw, oil container, plastic bottle)
- Blue trash bag
- Green recycling bag
- *Sign For Change* Worksheet (included in accordion folder)

Procedure:

Grades K-1

1. Hide all trash objects behind a table.
2. Stand behind the table and choose one volunteer to go fishing for trash. Instruct the student to throw the hook over the edge of the table, while the class chants “yo, ho, ho.” Meanwhile, you discretely attach the hook to a trash object, by connecting it to a ring.
3. Ask the students to identify what they pulled out of the ocean, describe the materials that each object is made out of (plastic, cloth, metal, etc.), and describe the object’s color, size, shape, and texture.
4. Repeat steps 1 to 3 for each piece of trash.
5. Dive deeper with your students and give your class another opportunity to review the information by completing the *A Sign For Change* worksheet.

Grades 2-5

1. Follow steps 1 through 4 of the initial procedure.
2. Read the red card attached to the item as you pull it up. The red cards contain interactive true or false and multiple choice questions that you may ask your students. For grades 4-5, encourage the students to read the white card, attached to the item, aloud which include open ended questions and statistics.



3. Have the students sort these items by placing them into either the recycling or trash bags. This activity will stimulate discussion on what can be recycled.

Further Investigation:

As an extension for older students, have each of them choose an open ended question to research and have them create a written summary of their findings.