

Interconnected Ecosystems

Ocean Literacy Principle #5

The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems

This activity encourages students to use a higher level of thinking through active participation. They will understand how each part of ecosystems are heavily reliant on each other, the unfortunate impact humans have had on our oceans ecosystems, and preventative methods to avoid further damage.

Grade: 6 & 7

Materials: List of questions

Length/time: 60 minutes

Activity description: To begin, the entire class will be standing at the back of a large open room. The teacher will ask the students to take a step forward if they have eaten the types of seafood they list. By the end of the game, the majority of the class will be standing in the very front of the room. The teacher will then begin a guided discussion about how the class being at the front of the classroom is a visual representation of how humans are at the top of the food chain. Eventually, they will understand the detrimental affects humans have on the ecosystems and ways to prevent it, such as putting an end to overfishing.

Background knowledge: No background knowledge but a debrief.

Walk away message: Through this activity, they will feel inspired to be more careful about their food choices. They will remember that even though we have caused a lot of damage to many of our ecosystems like our oceans, there are ways to help decrease the damage we have done through preventative methods.

Teachers Reference

Take a step forward if you have eaten salmon.
Take a step forward if you have eaten a shark fin
Take a step forward if you have eaten oysters
Take a step forward if you have eaten shrimp
Take a step forward if you have eaten squid
Take a step forward if you have eaten seaweed
Take a step forward if you have eaten crab
Take a step forward if you have eaten Halibut
Take a step forward if you have eaten jellied eels
Take a step forward if you have eaten tuna

Guided Discussion questions...

How many people are in the front compared to the back? How do you think this may be related to the food chain?

Most people are in the front compared to the back because it represents how humans are at the top of the food chain.

How do you think human activities including intense fishing around the world are alerting ocean ecosystems beyond their natural state?

-Unsustainable fishing is the greatest threat to the oceans ecosystems.

-Overfishing destroys physical environments of marine life, distorts the entire food chain of the ocean.

- Example is sea lions. Humans are eating too much salmon so bigger fish like sea lions do not have enough nutritious food to help them stay healthy.

What can we do to prevent this greatest threat to our oceans?

- Be Ocean Wise! Only buy seafood that has the Ocean Wise symbol on it to keep the health of our oceans optimal.

-Ocean Wise symbol assures sustainable seafood.

