

Plastic Bottle Cap Fish 6-8

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Lesson

On our BIG Earth . . . there are large amounts of ocean waters that circulate continuously around the world. In several places, an ocean gyre forms. Three forces cause the circulation of a gyre: the wind patterns, the Earth's rotation, & the Earth's lands. Winds cause the water to move in the direction the wind is blowing. Can you picture this water circulation? I'm sure you have watched water go down a drain . . . It makes a circular motion before entering the drain, around & around! Or have you ever filled a bottle (try this with a 2 liter



bottle), turned it upside down & watched as the water comes down, inside the bottle. This is the motion of an ocean gyre! This circular motion of the gyre draws in the debris, mostly plastic floating around in some of the calm waters of the ocean. Eventually, the debris makes its way to the center of the gyre, where it becomes trapped & breaks down into a kind of plastic soup where it continues to accumulate for years.

These regions are called

garbage patches which can be found in all of the oceans. Oceanographers & ecologists are concerned about garbage patches. Most of them are made up of plastics of many kinds, as bottles, bottle caps, plastic bags, Styrofoam cups & many other things. Plastic does not disintegrate into organic substances as do wood or food. It keeps breaking down into smaller pieces of plastic that are as small as the algae & plankton that are the main source of the ocean food.



Many ocean creatures, birds, & fish consume these micro-plastics, which we see, often kills them. The plastic chemicals can also be absorbed by predators of these species - even people! Look at the things that you have around you that are made of plastics. Is there something that you could use instead of these to help eliminate the use of plastics? Or, how can you reuse or recycle the plastics you have?



Questions for Students

How many oceans & Gyres are on Earth?

Where is the Largest Garbage patch?

How does most of the Trash get into the water?

What are the 2 main things found in the ocean garbage?

How does this harm the living sea animals?

How can you help to not add to this ocean problem?



**RESOURCE
DEPOT**

turning waste into wonder

Please us the [Other Resources Page](#) before you start the art project

Other Learning Resources

Learn More About Ocean Garbage

<https://www.discovermagazine.com/environment/the-worlds-largest-dump-the-great-pacific-garbage-patch>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2018/03/great-pacific-garbage-patch-plastics-environment/>

Videos About Ocean Garbage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HBtI4sHTqU&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6i16Crl8ss&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfHfoafRxtY&feature=youtu.be>



Materials



- * Thicker Paper/Cardboard Box (A cereal box works great!)
- Bottle caps—your choice of colors
- Large plastic lid
- Scissors, Pencil, Permanent Markers, Paint Brush
- Paint of your color choices or colored paper for collage.
- Optional—Large Googly Eye

Instructions



1. Gather all your materials.
2. On your cardboard, draw the outline of a fish shape. This can be any kind of fish you want. You can change the colors & types of caps you collect to match the kind of fish you make.
3. Cut out this outline & paint cardboard fish or cover with collaged colored paper. Let dry.
4. Take your larger lid & cut a slit in it for the mouth. If you can't find the right color lid, go ahead & paint the larger lid which will become your fish face. (mix some glue to the paint on the lid so it will adhere better to the plastic)
5. Once Dry, Hot glue larger lid where the fish face should be.
6. Arrange your smaller bottle caps on your fish body, once you know where they are going, glue bottle caps to the body of the fish using a brush with glue or you might want to dip them into glue pored into a container.
7. Paint an eye on the larger lid or glue on a googly eye
8. Optional—repeat steps 4-7 on back side, so it can hang. Just punch hole a in the fin & add string.
9. When dry, display your fish as a reminder of the plastics in the ocean! Could you make a school of fish?

