



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Storytelling to Build Community

An activity of "Fitting In" and "Turning the tide against plastic waste in the ocean".

Sharing our stories with others is a great way to connect, especially with new friends. One way we can do this is to read a common article and share what its details mean to us. Let's try doing this to build your classroom community. Read "Fitting In" (page 22-23, *What's Up* September 2025) to gain insights about your classroom community. Then, use the article "Turning the tide against plastic waste in the ocean" (page 26, *What's Up* September 2025) to carry out this activity.

ON YOUR OWN

A) According to the ocean-waste story, list how plastic trash affects marine life.

How plastic trash in the ocean affects marine life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ◆

B) Give two ways in which the CircularBlue project benefits the ocean.

How CircularBlue benefits the ocean
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ◆

C) What can we do on our part to reduce plastic pollution in the sea and on the beach?

D) What do the details in the ocean-waste story remind you of? Connect the story with your personal experiences and what you know about pollution when you fill in the blanks below. An example is done for you.

◆ **When I read that** *80 per cent of floating trash ends up along coastlines and rivers, I thought of the time when I was at the beach, and I saw birds pecking at the loads of food waste, rubbish, and plastic bottles.*

◆ When I read that _____ ,
I thought of _____
_____.

◆ When I read that _____ ,
I thought of _____
_____.

◆ When I read that _____ ,
I thought of _____
_____.

AS A WHOLE CLASS

E) Share one or two of your statements above with your class. Make each “I thought of” part into a little story about your experiences or what you have heard. This transforms everyone’s sharing into a storytelling session for the whole class!

IN PAIRS

F) After the storytelling session, sit together in twos or threes to reflect on the following:

What did you like most about the “pollution stories” shared by your classmates? How easy was it for you to listen to the stories? What did you find hardest when you shared your own stories?

What are some thoughts about using a serious article like the ocean-waste *What’s Up* story to have a good storytelling session in class? Did your class warm up during the sharing or were you disappointed? In your view, what other activities can help a class like yours become a warm and caring community?