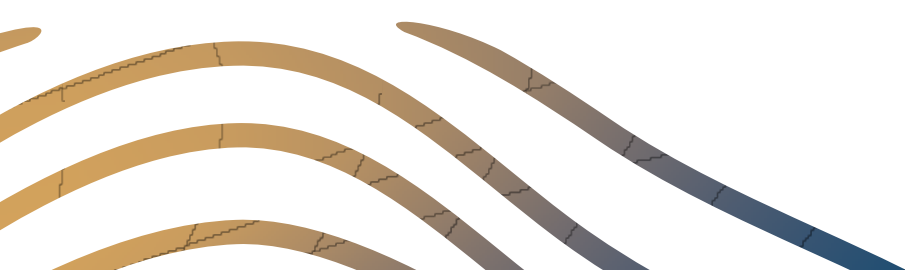




**THE OCEAN SENSES  
ACTIVITIES BOOK**



The image features a solid orange background. In the top right and bottom left corners, there are decorative elements consisting of several parallel, wavy white lines that curve across the page. The word "TOUCH" is centered in the middle of the page in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

**TOUCH**



## HUMAN IMPACT: PLASTIC POLLUTION

### Focus:

To comprehend that plastic pollution is a major problem and is having an impact on oceans everywhere. These impacts are seen on beaches and shorelines and all the way to the deepest places in the ocean.

### Learning objectives:

In this activity, pupils will gain an appreciation for the extent of plastic pollution in and around oceans. They will start to understand how plastic pollution can have a negative impact on life below the surface of the sea.

### Key words:

Ocean pollution, plastics, microplastics.

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## IN SHORT (FOR THE TEACHER):

During this activity, your pupils will understand how much the global problem of plastic pollution impacts the waterways and coasts near you. This requires an excursion and equipment to collect garbage/plastics. The pupils will observe the environment and collect the garbage (which you will ensure is disposed of properly afterwards). This activity is meant to inspire discussion on location and back in the classroom.

### Materials:

Ideally, this is an excursion activity where pupils visit the coastline of a sea/river/waterway near you. The pupils will need the following:

- Protective gloves
- Bags/containers to collect garbage.

### Teaching Time:

The amount of time will depend on the distance to the chosen location and how much time you spend investigating and discussing.



Image showing plastic and ocean pollution  
(Image: Ocean plastics Photo by Naja Bertolt Jensen on Unsplash)

### More information:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/plastic-pollution>

<https://www.unep.org/plastic-pollution>

## BACKGROUND STORY:

Every minute, the equivalent of one garbage truck of plastic is dumped into our oceans. Every year, about 8 million tons of plastic waste escapes into the oceans from coastal nations.

The solution is to prevent plastic waste from entering rivers and seas in the first place. This could be accomplished with improved waste management systems and recycling, better product design that considers the short life of disposable packaging, and a reduction in the manufacturing of unnecessary single-use plastics.

## Learning procedure:

Visit a local beach or waterway and collect plastic and other garbage that has accumulated around it. Gather the garbage together and reflect on how much plastic there must be around the ocean if this is how much you find in only one place. If there is a lot of plastic, you can discuss where it might come from. If there is little garbage, then you can discuss why. These discussions can be combined with other lessons on ocean/river circulation and how human's impact our planet, for example.



Collecting plastic and rubbish on a beach (Image: Anatasia Nelen on Unsplash)