

MULTILEVEL LESSON PLAN

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THEME: TRASH IN THE OCEAN AND NATURE DEGRADATION

This lesson plan suits for classes where we find students with different stages of language proficiency or for teachers who want to use the same lesson plan for beginners and non beginners as a way to make organizing teaching materials less time consuming.

In the first situation, high level students can do all the exercises and the others concentrate in the easy ones, according to their rhythm. The second situation enables the teacher to use the same material with different language teaching purposes.

STUDENT LEVEL: beginners/non beginners

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- To show the students that trash, mainly nonbiodegradable garbage, is a worldwide problem and it affects people in a global scale.
- To help students understand that, as a global problem, pollution from trash is everybody's responsibility and we should do something to reduce it.
- To solve problems.
- To improve visual literacy.

LANGUAGE OBJECTIVES:

- To get information from small written texts.
 - To get information from maps and express them in English.
 - To answer orally questions from images and written texts.
 - To express ideas in different technologies of information and communication.
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1st activity.

- Pre-requirement: to have already studied ocean currents (Geography subject)
- Access the Green Peace's site to do a simulation entitled "Pacific Trash Vortex"
http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/trashing-our-oceans/ocean_pollution_animation

To evaluate the students' understanding, after presenting the simulation, the teacher makes questions such as:

- Is trash near the coast after 6 years? (Yes/No questions for beginners)
- Is trash near the coast or in the middle of the ocean after 2 years? (questions that allow options for beginners)
- Where is trash after 6 months? (non beginners)
- How long it takes for trash to be not too far from the coast? (non beginners)
- How long do ocean currents take to form trash islands at the bottom of the ocean?

- (non beginners)
- Why does trash do not stay in the same place when it is thrown in the ocean? (non beginners)
- Give the route os trash in the Pacific Ocean. (non beginners)

Expressions that can be used in answers: “near the coast”, “spread all over the ocean”, “going to somewhere between Japan and USA”, “not far from the coast”, “not too far from the coast”, “at he bottom of the sea” ...

2nd activity.

After reading the text at the end of the simulation, ask students to explain what changes in ocean water is trash responsible for?

Beginners: students may answer in Portuguese and the teacher writes students' ideas in English

Non beginners: students try to write by themselves with the help of the teacher.

3rd activity.

Problem solving: after knowing what is going on in the Pacific Ocean, answer the following question.

What happens to trash thrown in the Southern part of the Atlantic Ocean?

If the students do not know the answer of this question because they do not remember what they learned about ocean currents, ask them to read the text below to get the information they need to answer it.

“There are a number of ocean currents around the World. A current is like a vast river within the ocean, flowing from one place to another. These currents are caused by differences in temperature, differences in salinity, and by wind. Currents are responsible for a vast amount of movement in the water found in the earth's oceans. North of the equator currents bend to the right, south of the Equator they bend to the left.”

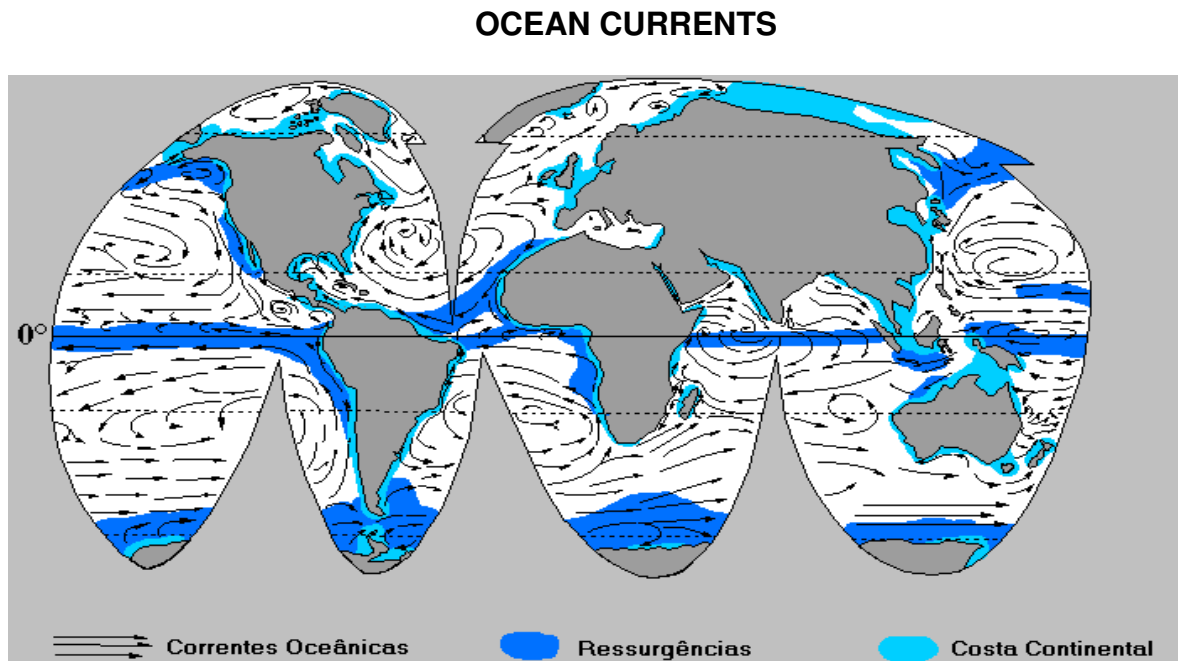
<http://www.kidsgeo.com/geography-for-kids/0145-ocean-currents.php>
<http://www.mos.org/oceans/motion/currents.html>

To check the how deep the students grasped the information of the text, the teacher may ask the following questions.

- Can you explain what a current is?

- What are the causes of currents?
- In what direction do South Atlantic do currents flow?

Wasn't the text enough? Give students the following map.



<http://www.unicamp.br/fea/ortega/eco/iuri10a.htm>

4th activity.

Mark in the following map where we can find the trash Brazil and African countries throw in the Atlantic Ocean. Do not forget to consider information you got from the text and the previous map.



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/blatantworld/4148589161/>

5th activity.

Beginners

The following picture is a Green Peace's anti-pollution advertisement. It is written "Hard to breath" in it. Make a list of things related to trash that you can do to preserve our planet.



<http://flip7.deviantart.com/art/GreenPeace-Anti-Pollution-Ad-104733690>

Non Beginners

Ask the students to present what they have learned about trash in the Atlantic Ocean. They may choose the technologies they like best: radio, film, written text or images.

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