



Britannica
EDUCATION



Middle Level

Impacts of Fishing

A Lesson Plan Featuring **Britannica School**

Lesson Overview

Subject	Ocean Conservation
Level	Middle
Duration	4-5 Class Periods of 45 minutes
Description/Aim	Students investigate different species of fish, the act of fishing and draw links between human impact and fish survival.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet Connection• Various Worksheets (included)• Poster Paper

Lesson Objectives

- Gain a better understanding of global issues
- Identify current key issues that exist within the climate change problem
- Find new meaning through the information they discover
- Share their learning with their local community and the wider world



*This lesson refers to content taken from **Britannica School**, the go-to site for learning more about any subject.*

*Don't already have access? Contact your librarian to find out if your school already has access. **[Request a free trial here!](#)***

Lesson Background

Impacts of Fishing

In 2015, world leaders agreed to 17 goals for a better world by 2030. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as they are known, address global challenges like poverty, inequality and climate change and serve as a blueprint to a more sustainable future.

As a global education leader, working to support students in becoming lifelong learners and citizens of the world, Britannica educators have partnered with the United Nations Global Goals to call upon schools, educators and students to amplify, reflect and act on these challenges that affect every one of us.

The following lesson will teach students about the responsible stewardship of our oceans and rivers by analysing the impact of fishing on marine life.

It will lead students towards deeper connections, understanding and ultimately action.

As the call for sustainable change grows around the world, ensure that your students are informed, engaged and prepared to tackle one of the most important issues facing their generation.

This lesson supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water, which aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

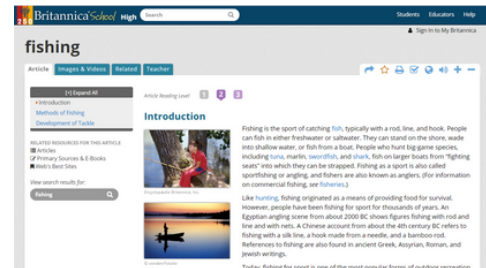


Step-by-Step Procedures

1. Why do we go Fishing?

Read the **'Fishing' article** found in Britannica School and identify facts about fishing. Complete the Facts About Fishing worksheet.

↓ [Facts About Fishing worksheet \[PDF\]](#)



2. Pollution and Fishing

What types of pollution affects fish habitats?
Read the **'Water Pollution' article** and watch the **'Pacific Ocean; Plastic Pollution' video** found in Britannica School.

Complete the Cause and Effect worksheet identifying types of pollution and the effects of the pollution on water and fish habitats.

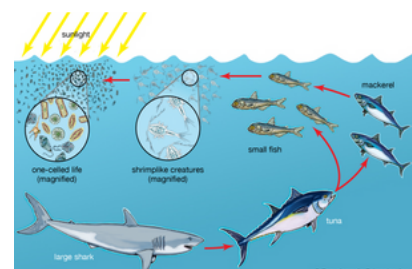
↓ [Cause and Effect worksheet \[PDF\]](#)

3. Climate Change

The **'Fish Stock Reduction' video** explains how climate change is affecting fish numbers. The interviewee identifies changes in food chains due to an increase in water temperature as a result of climate change. Examine the **'Food Chain' article** and the **'Food Chain: Ocean Food Chain' image**. All found in Britannica School.

Use the Food Chain Disturbance Tool (the link is in the worksheet below) to hypothesise a disturbance to the ocean food chain from above. Complete the Food Chain Disturbance worksheet.

↓ [Food Chain Disturbance worksheet \[PDF\]](#)



4. Fishing Rules

Using the knowledge gained from the previous activities, create a Sustainable Fishing Rules poster that includes a list of rules that fishermen should adhere to, to ensure fish populations remain abundant.



Extension Task

Students select an ocean organism and explore the relationship between environmental factors and the organism's adaptations.

Examine abiotic factors that influence the physical and behavioural adaptations.

Assessment

- Various annotated work samples such as Cause and Effect chart or the Sustainable Fishing Rules.
- Observation of the students participating in the lesson and their contribution to group discussions.



Britannica
EDUCATION

© 2025 Encyclopædia Britannica Inc.

To learn more about Britannica's resources
and how we can support you, please email
contact@britannica.com.au or
visit **elearn.eb.com**