The World Needs
Clean Oceans

learn about it.

The health of the world's oceans is an issue that connects each and every one of us. Oceans are essential to regulating the global climate system, while over 3 billion people rely on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. However, decades of deterioration due to pollution, carbon emissions, and acidification now threaten the ecosystem.

Plastic consumption contributes a lot of waste to our oceans. Almost 90% of plastic litter found in the oceans are from **single-use plastic** objects like bags and bottles. The world's largest landfill is the "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch" located in the North Pacific Ocean.

In the "The World Needs: Clean Ocean" video, our global peers explain that, despite the amount of information available about the health of our oceans, change isn't happening fast enough. We all need to take more action as individuals to change our habits and call for changes to rules and policies that negatively impact the health of our oceans.

think about it.

In 2018, The Earth Day Network reported that 6.3 billion metric tons of waste had been generated. Of that, only 9% had been recycled, and 12 % had been incinerated. The other 79% of the plastic waste ended up in landfills and other parts of our natural environments, including our oceans.

Using the boxes on the right, make a list of every plastic item you've used in 24 hours, then use the percentages (%) above to answer the following questions :

How many would be recycled?

How many would go to an incendiary?

How many would end up in a landfill?

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talk about it.

Find a friend, classmate, or family member and discuss any of the following questions:

- Changing our habits can be a challenge. For most of the world, using single-use plastic is a habit we may not even be aware of, but it is a habit that directly impacts our oceans. **What habits do you have that impact our oceans? How could you try to change them?**

- Cleaning our oceans is a task that requires the participation of everyone. However, it is important to recognize when "simple solutions" disregard the lived experiences of people. For example, banning plastic straws disregards the needs of many disabled people. **Brainstorm solutions for improving the health of our oceans that take into consideration a diverse range of lived experiences.**

be about it!

Now it's time to take action. Using the SMARTIE goals framework below, **create two goals for cleaner oceans.**

- Goal #1: How will you take action to reduce plastic in the ocean?

- Goal #2: How will you take action for cleaner oceans in your community (home, school, neighborhood)?

	GOAL #1	GOAL #2
Specific — What specifically do you want to do?		
Measurable — How will you know when you've reached your goal?		
Achievable — Is this goal within your power to accomplish?		
Relevant — Is your goal aligned with the issue?		
Time bound — When exactly do you want to accomplish this goal?		
Inclusive — Does it bring in traditionally marginalized people?		
Equitable — Does it acknowledge that systemic injustice, inequity and oppression exist?		

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