



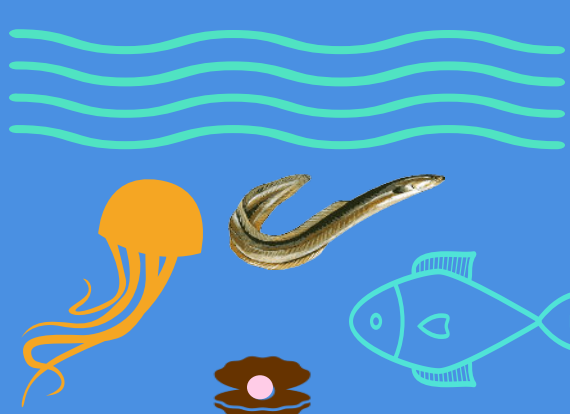
GREEN-SCHOOLS STAY HOME - WATER



Idea - Water Creature Art

Ireland is surrounded by seas and has numerous rivers/streams (3,192 covering 70,000 km (20 Olympic size swimming pools in 1 km)) and lakes (12,000), all of which are full of life. Some interesting fresh and salt water creatures include:

- Cuckoo Wrasse (sea) - start life as females and change to male when there is need,
- Eels (rivers/sea) - can survive out of water for quite a long time and may crawl through wet grass to reach water
- Jellyfish (sea) - have no ears, eyes, nose, brain, heart or bones and have existed for at least 500 million years!
- Freshwater pearl mussel (Rivers and sometimes lakes) - spend part of their life cycle attached to the gills of Atlantic salmon or brown trout and drop off the next year to continue to grow, live in extremely clean water and are Ireland's longest lived animal, reaching 140 years old.



What can harm them:

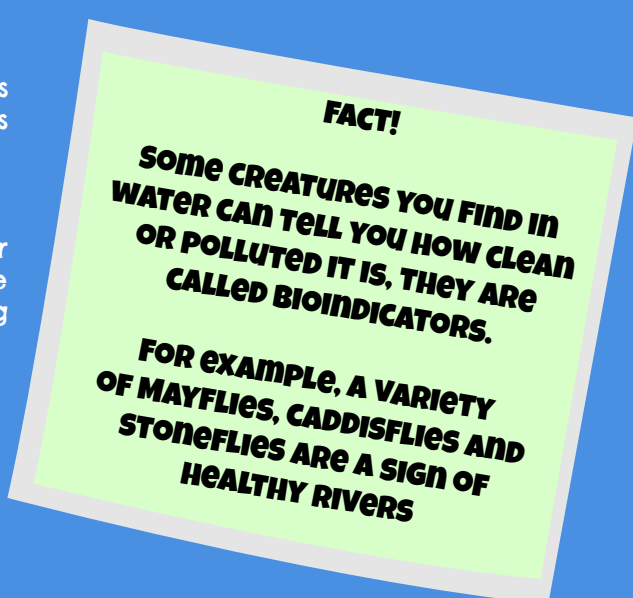
There are a lot of different types of pollution that reach our seas and freshwater e.g. wastewater, fertilizers, sewage, toxic chemicals like pesticides, oil spills, plastic, litter etc.

How can we protect them:

Doing simple things like for example, not littering, doing a street or beach cleanup, using less plastic, not putting fats, oils and grease down the sink or putting medicines in water supply, avoiding pesticides and using environmentally friendly cleaning products.

For more information see:

- <https://cleancoasts.org/marine-litter/>
- <https://greenschoolsireland.org/green-schools-stay-home-water/>
- <http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie/departments/environment/3-for-sea.htm>
- <https://www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/water/>



Water Creature Art

What do you think lives in the water around us?
Why not try and make your own water creature!



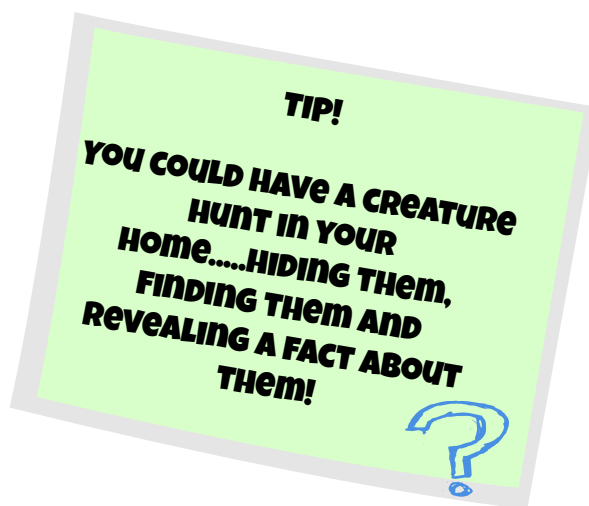
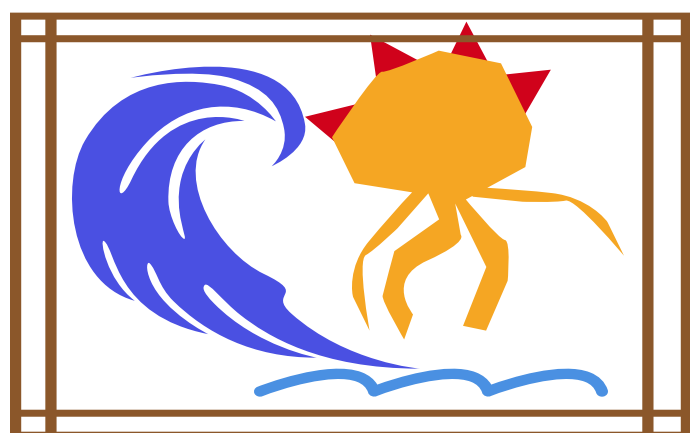
WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- Household materials (e.g. ribbon, string, scrap paper, old cloths, cardboard boxes (cereal/shoe boxes)
- Scissors (child friendly or adult assistance)
- Paints/markers/Colouring pencils
- Glue or sellotape
- Buttons/googly eyes



WHAT TO DO...

- Look at your materials and create a water creature out of what you have. **Note:** they can be real or made up. **Example:** Red spike Jellyfish (made up creature) using card, string/ribbon, tape and paint.
- Think about some water facts to go with your creature. **Note:** they can be as imaginative or factual as you want. **Example:** Spikes, stinging tentacles and red colour protect it from predators (creatures that want to eat it)
- Does any pollution threaten your species and is there anything that can be done to help it. **Note:** Again this can be made up or a fact. **Example:** Red spike jellyfish are attracted to paints that get into the water but it hurts their skin so not putting paints down the sink but letting them get hard and disposing of them in local waste recycling centre will help (Creature made up but **fact:** this is the best way to dispose of paint).
- Maybe you could go a step further and create a habitat (home) for your creature e.g. using a shoe box you could create a 3D habitat (e.g. river/sea diorama) **Example:** My creature lives in rivers and seas!



CONCLUSION...

Do you think there are many water creatures out there we don't know? Where would you like to investigate cold/warm climate....fresh/saltwater habitats? Do you think there are things that harm these water creatures and is there any way to help them?

Maybe you could watch some Blue Planet to learn more!

You could also share your water creature creations with us as at Green-Schools.

Thanks for taking part,
keep checking back for
more tips, experiments &
activities with
#GreenSchoolsStayHome