

# OUR OCEAN

## RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR AMERICAN SPACES

*This Resource Toolkit is designed for programming at American Spaces to create a greater awareness of the issues and solutions in environmental sustainability.*



### OUR OCEAN CONFERENCES

In the United States, [the Department of State](#) supports the Our Ocean Conferences, which have catalyzed unprecedented action by the global community to fight marine pollution, climate change, and unsustainable and illegal fishing, and to promote marine protected areas, the blue economy, and maritime security, among other efforts.

The seventh Our Ocean Conference is a pivotal moment to spur global ocean action. The conference will draw partners globally to identify solutions to sustainably manage marine resources, increase the ocean's resilience to climate change, and protect its health for generations to come.

**Learn more about the 7th Our Ocean Conference** [taking place April 13 and 14 in Palau.](#)



*"From the time I was a little boy, I was always in awe of the ocean, and I have made it central to my life's work to protect the bodies of water that cover three-quarters of our planet."*

**John Kerry,**  
**Special Presidential Envoy for Climate**


### RESOURCES

- The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides a wide range of [teaching materials and lesson plans](#), plus games and VR resources.
- NOAA also features [recorded, subtitled webinars](#) with ocean scientists for students aged 8-12 (also in Spanish).
- The Smithsonian's [Ocean Portal Educators' Corner](#) has activities, lessons, and educational resources to bring the ocean to life.
- The [UN World Oceans Day website](#) includes educational ocean-related stories, resources, and videos. (World Oceans Day is June 8)
- UNESCO's "[Ocean Literacy for All](#)" toolkit is a comprehensive resource site created in 2018.
- National Geographic offers [classroom materials](#) for all ages and grades.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

## World Oceans Day

Every year on June 8, the world celebrates World Oceans Day, an occasion to draw attention to the importance of our ocean and the need to protect our precious marine resources. Stay tuned with the 2022 edition with the [@unworldoceansday](#) Instagram! 

## Glossary

**Ecosystem** - An ecosystem is a geographic area where plants, animals, and other organisms, as well as weather and landscape, work together to form a bubble of life.

**Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** - MPAs are sections of the ocean where a government has placed limits on human activity. Many MPAs allow people to use the area in ways that do not damage the environment.

**Blue Economy** - According to the World Bank, a blue economy is the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems."

## American Spaces resources on the Environment

- [Environment & sustainability Resources \(toolkit\)](#)
- [Climate change resources \(toolkit\)](#)
- [Air Quality Week resources \(toolkit\)](#)
- [Earth Day resources \(toolkit\)](#)
- [NASA's video, audio and photo collection](#)
- [NASA's educational resources](#)

## Share America articles

- [Protecting the Ocean from these Five Big Threats](#)
- [China's overfishing and pollution harms oceans](#)
- [U.S. Cleaning Plastic from oceans](#)



## For viewing

### Chasing Coral

Full Netflix feature, 90 minutes

### Oceans

PBS and the National Geographic Society  
Kanopy Film, 58 minutes

### TED Talk: Dive into an Ocean Photographer's World

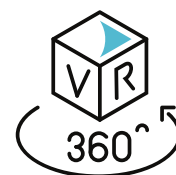
Subtitled: 31 languages / Duration: 10 minutes

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you live near an ocean or sea? Why are they important to you?
- In the TED Talk, the marine photographer says we are all impacted by the ocean. Do you think photographers like Thomas Peschak are doing an important job by letting us see both the beauty and problems in our oceans?
- More than 100 countries have pledged to take action to protect the ocean at the previous Our Ocean Conferences. Why must the countries of the world continue to work together to address issues such as climate change and ocean sustainability?

## The virtual reality corner

Dive in with the National Marine Sanctuaries and discover [immersive 360 degree views of marine sanctuaries](#). Don't have VR equipment? Find instructions [here](#) to build your own Cardboard VR Headset to pair with a smartphone with your classes!



\*Post will need to procure this film. The Office of American Spaces is not endorsing this movies as it may not be appropriate for all audiences. Coordinators should screen the films ahead of showing them. Here's a [link](#) with more information on showing movies at American Spaces.