

STORY STARTERS – TEACHER’S GUIDE

Offer the provided images as a seed for a story. Students could write a story for each image, or combine the characters in one story. Questions for students to think about in order to help them start are: Who is in the image? What is their backstory? How did they end up like this? How do they feel? What’s going to happen next?

You can use the handouts provided although we note that the images are far more effective in colour and colour printing is expensive and resource intensive. If you have the means to use a projector to show the class the image this is a good alternative to printing several colour worksheets.

STORY STARTERS

CLIMATE CHANGE: Ocean Warming and Coral Bleaching

Climate change is affecting our oceans. The majority of the extra heat trapped on Earth, as a result of climate change, is taken up by the ocean. This is causing the ocean to heat up. Ocean warming is causing coral bleaching and killing coral reefs.

Use the image below as a seed for a story. Who is this? Can you tell their story?

Questions to think about:

Why do they look like this?

How did they get to be like this?

How are they feeling?

What are they thinking?

Who else is part of this story?

What's going to happen now?



STORY STARTERS

CLIMATE CHANGE: Ocean Acidification and Jellyfish

Climate change is affecting our oceans. A third of the greenhouse gases we are putting in the atmosphere end up in the oceans, making the seawater more acidic. Most marine animals don't like to live in more acidic conditions, but jellyfish don't seem to mind. As our ocean gets more acidic, jellyfish might start taking over!

Use the image below as a seed for a story. Who is this? Can you tell their story?

Questions to think about:

How are they feeling? Why?

What are they thinking? Why?

What are they doing?

Who else is part of this story?

What's going to happen now?



STORY STARTERS

OCEAN POLLUTION: Plastic Bags and Bottles

Pollution and waste produced by humans is affecting our oceans. A rubbish truck's-worth of plastic finds its way into the ocean every minute. Marine life then get tangled in this plastic, as well as choking on it when mistaking it for food and trying to eat it. If eaten, plastics can release toxins and slowly poison the animal that has eaten it.

Use the image below as a seed for a story. Who are these individuals? Can you tell their story?

Questions to think about:

How did they get into this situation?

How are they feeling? Why?

What are they thinking? Why?

Who else is part of this story?

What's going to happen now?



STORY STARTERS

OCEAN POLLUTION: Oil Spills

We hear about the occasional big oil spills, like big oil tankers running aground and explosions on oil rigs, but small oil spills happen every day. These happen as a result of minor drilling incidents, leaking motors, small vessels running aground and cause the death of birds, marine mammals, fish, and shellfish by smothering them in a thick layer of pollution.

Use the image below as a seed for a story. Who is this? Can you tell their story?

Questions to think about:

How did they get into this situation?

How are they feeling? Why?

What are they thinking? Why?

Who else is part of this story?

What's going to happen now?



STORY STARTERS

HARMFUL FISHING: Bycatch

On top of the many, many fish that are caught on purpose, thousands of unwanted fish, marine mammals, reptiles, and seabirds get hooked and tangled in nets each year. Even if these animals survive being caught initially, and are thrown back into the sea, they often end up dying from their injuries.

Use the image below as a seed for a story. Who is this? Can you tell their story?

Questions to think about:

How did they get into this situation?

How are they feeling? Why?

What are they thinking? Why?

Who else is part of their story?

What's going to happen now?



STORY STARTERS

COMBINED OCEAN THREATS: Biodiversity Loss

The combination of climate change, pollution, and harmful fishing is putting the biodiversity within the marine ecosystem at risk. As native species suffer, local ecosystems become more vulnerable to being wiped out by invasive species. This is already happening in the Caribbean with the invasion of the lionfish. As a result the native reef and reef fish are dying, which is of much concern to those people who live in the Gulf of Mexico.

Use the image below as a seed for a story. Who is this? Can you tell their story?

Questions to think about:

What are they thinking? Why?

What are they doing? Why?

How are they feeling? Why?

Who else is part of their story?

What's going to happen now?

