

Secrets of the Ocean



Our Journalists



Ms. L – Senior Journalist and Layout Artist
Ms. L has been a journalist since 2025.



Mr. K – Senior Journalist and Headline Writer
Mr. K has been a journalist since 2025.



Mr. Dobre – Journalist
Mr. Dobre has been a journalist since 2026.



Miss L. – Journalist and Photographer
Miss. L has been a journalist since 2026.



Dr. J – Journalist
Dr. J has been a journalist since 2026.



Mr. M – Journalist
Mr. M has been a journalist since 2026.



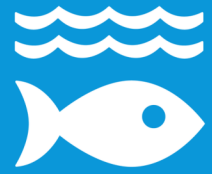
Mr. X – Journalist
Mr. X has been a journalist since 2026.



Mr. Bunny – Junior Journalist
A totally real journalist.
He likes to go on trips.

Our Focus

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



The second edition of the UNSDG Newsletter is here! Students share their thoughts and learning on SDG 14: Life Below Water.

All research and writing is done by the students themselves.

This edition contains:

- Fish!
- Interview with Mr. B
- How special are dolphins?!
- The secret life of whales
- Jellyfish
- The Mighty Sharks
- KG art
- Seastars
- Narwhals
- Protecting Underwater Ecosystems
- Capybaras
- Kaufland Investigation
- Life Under Water
- Interview with Ms. Sarah
- Library recommendations
- Interview with Ms. N
- What comes next!



By Mr. X

FISH!

Article is about Fish

Information about Fishes

Fish are a kind of animal that live in water. Fishes have lived on Earth for more than 450 million years. There are more than 24,000 species or kinds of fish. New ones are discovered every year.



Fish live in lakes, rivers, seas and oceans around the world. They live in all kinds of water from warm springs to cold arctic seas. Fish can even be found in the dark pools of underground caves. But fish cannot live in water that is extremely salty. The Great Salt Lake in the western united states is so salty that it has no fish.

Why Sustainable fishing is important

More than a third of the global population relies on seafood as a source of protein and 38 million people are employed in wild captured fishing. If we fish sustainably we can secure food for the future and help eradicate poverty.



Sources

Britannica

<https://www.msc.org/what-we-are-doing/our-approach/what-is-sustainable-fishing#:~:text=Fishing%20is%20sustainable%20if%20it,impacts%20on%20habitats%20and%20ecosystems.>

Interview with Mr. B



Mr. B works in learning support and he creates our yearbook!

He fishes.

Journalists:
Everyone!

Why do you fish?

Since I was very young, I've always liked to get up close and personal with nature. I caught everything from frogs and snakes to raccoons and possums just to inspect them, nose to nose. Fishing provides this opportunity as well, with an element of surprise: You never know what's going to come up from beneath the surface.

Why do you fish?

I fished every now and then as a kid, but I didn't really get into it until 2011, when I lived on a 19-km island for a couple years. There wasn't much else to do but fish, but that was perfectly fine. The sea creatures there are epic. I've been hooked ever since.

Does anyone in your family fish?

My whole family will come fishing with me to hang out in nature, but my son is the only one who really actually fishes with me. He caught the biggest fish last summer. My daughter reeled in a sea bass in Florida this spring, but then she felt bad and said she was done with that nonsense. My wife did catch a decent nurse shark once, but for some reason she didn't become addicted to the hobby.

Do you eat the fish you catch?

Not very often. For the most part I catch and release. I only eat them if I haven't had breakfast yet.

What was the smallest fish you caught?

If we're not talking catching with a fishing pole, then probably one-inch minnows with a net. I've also caught hundreds of 9-millimeter tadpoles, but those aren't fish.

Interview with Mr. B

Where do you fish? Do you fish in the sea?

I live in Rheinland-Pfalz, so I only have the Erlaubnisschein zum Fischfang in that state. Fishing directly on the Rhein can be tricky because the current constantly pushes your line back to shore, so I usually go to Seitengewässer like Prinz-Karl-Wörth or Kiefweiher. But fishing in the sea is the best. You never know what you're gonna get. My top-secret fishing holes in the sea include the Beef Island bridge on Tortola, B.V.I., and between the crooked palm tree and the blue garbage can next to the Pass A Grille Dog Beach in St. Petersburg, Florida. (I'm only sharing these secret fishing spots because I assume you won't go there. Seriously, please don't. It'll scare the fish away.)

Which was the biggest?

The biggest fish I caught was probably a nurse shark maybe 2.5 meters long. Unless you count dinghies, which are the small boats people ride to shore from their bigger sailboats. One night one floated across the bay without people in it (a good-sized one, maybe 4 meters long!), so I cast, snagged it, reeled it in, and tied it to the dock, then went to find the owners. They said thank you, but I had the impression they thought I stole it and then felt bad and wanted to give it back.

What was your favourite fish?

I caught my prized, bucket-list fish last year in Florida, a scalloped hammerhead shark. It was a spiritual moment. We really bonded. I'd like to get a tattoo of a hammerhead on my back now, but my son won't let me.

Which fish did you catch a lot?

Florida's canals are teeming with hardhead and gafftopsail catfish. There are many of them and they constantly steal your bait. The last one I caught though was much worse than a petty thief, but that's a story for another interview.

Did you eat the fish you caught? If you have, which kinds did you eat?

Mostly trout.

Interview with Mr. B

Which fish did you miss catching?

I hooked up to a good 3–4 meter lemon shark off a bridge once. It blew my fishing rod into pieces, did a little dance, then swam away, looking over its shoulder at me and giggling.

Did you ever catch a shoe or a sea star?

I've snagged a handful of flip flops, yes. For some reason the tourists on Tortola lose them often; they're everywhere. (How can so many people lose one flip flop and walk away without noticing?) And yes, I caught my first sea star this spring. It really did eat my bait and I reeled it in. Other ocean surprises (among all the fish and sharks) included a sea horse, an octopus, eels, crabs, stingrays, lobsters, anemones, jellyfish, squid, pelicans, seagulls, and an unidentified squishy thing that sprayed me with stinky purple ink. (Not all of these involved a hook; sometimes they just get tangled in the line.)

Did you ever join a competition for fishing, and did you get a prize?

No, I've never entered a fishing contest. But I won a prize. I still don't understand how that happened.

What are the best spots to catch fish?

My preferences are always in the ocean, near "moving water," where the current isn't so strong that it takes your line away but still moves like a leisurely country highway for several traveling fish species.

Do you like fish?

Yes. Yes I do.

Do you have any questions for Mr. B?

For tips and tricks on fishing, you can find him in the learning support office.

By Ms. L

HOW SPECIAL ARE DOLPHINS?!

Article is about dolphins

Information about dolphins

Dolphins are animals that live in the ocean. They get to 35-years-old or more in the wild. They are not fish; they are mammals. They weigh 70-136KG. They eat fish and squid. Dolphins belong to the family of the whales. The biggest dolphin is the Orca, and the smallest dolphin is the Commersch's dolphin.



On some fish packages, it says fish are caught so dolphins are not in danger. As dolphins can get stuck in fishnets. Those stickers stand for sustainable fishing.

Sources

Britannica, woozel goozel

Pink River Dolphin

The pink river dolphin only lives in the rivers. The other dolphins live in salt water. The pink river dolphin has pink skin, because the skin is very thin, so you can see their blood. However, when they are born, their skin is grey.



Mr. K

THE SECRET LIFE OF WHALES

There are more than 80 types of whales. Whales are as big as 10 feet long, but the Blue Whales are 100 feet long.

A large group of animals is called cetacea. Whales are not fish; they are mammals.

Some types of whales travel thousands of miles. When white whales are born, they are not white; they are grey.

The toothed whales travel in groups. Humpback whales are very acrobatic; they often leap out of the water.



Mr. M

JELLYFISH

There are about 200 species, or types, of Jellyfish. They are found in all oceans.

A typical Jellyfish is shaped like a bell or an umbrella.

Others are more than 6ft (2m) across.

Jellyfish are made up of almost 99 percent water.

Fun Fact!

The Jellyfish is not a fish! It is an invertebrated animal, without a backbone.

By Ms. L

THE MIGHTY SHARKS

Article is about sharks

Information about Sharks

Sharks have a "revolver-gebiss" (revolver jaw), that means their teeth grow their whole life long. So when they lose a tooth, another one always comes after.

The biggest shark is the whale shark. The whale shark grows 12m big!
The smallest sharks only gets to 1m.



Shark Attack!

Many people think sharks like to attack people, but that is not true. It is easier for a coconut to fall on your head, than a shark to bite you. Sometimes when they come close to people they just want to see what you smell like. The noses of sharks are really good. Better than their eyes.

Sharks eat sea lions and robben (seals).

Some types of sharks are endangered. Endangered animals are animals that can die out because there are no more left.

Fun fact!

Sharks have a fin that looks like a big A, and dolphins have a fin that looks like a wave.

KG ART



X, Bee Group - 5 and a half years old

Ich habe Fische gemalt. Sie schwimmen und sind glücklich.

Ich habe auch eine Sonne und einen Himmel gemalt.

Die Sonne und der Himmel sind da, damit die Fische sehen können, wo sie schwimmen und damit sie trinken können.

X, Bee Group - 4 years old

I draw fish and rainbow corals. I saw them on my TV and I like them. The fish are swimming in the water, and I really like my underwater world.



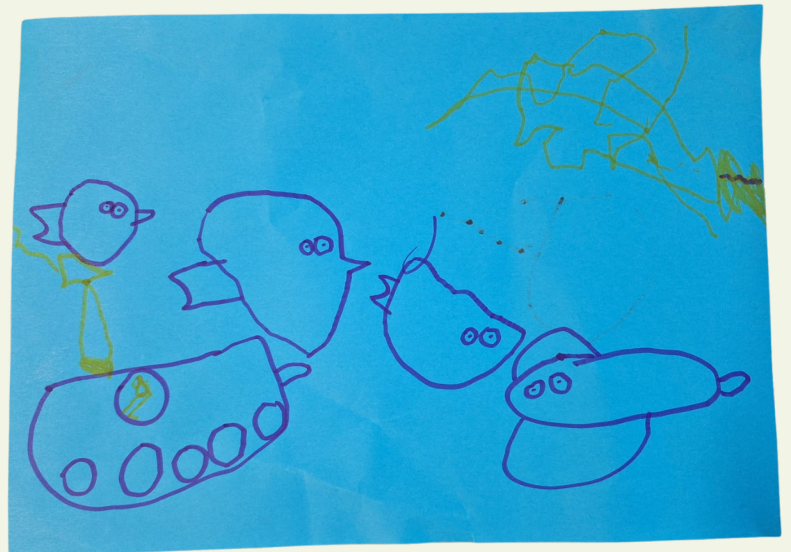
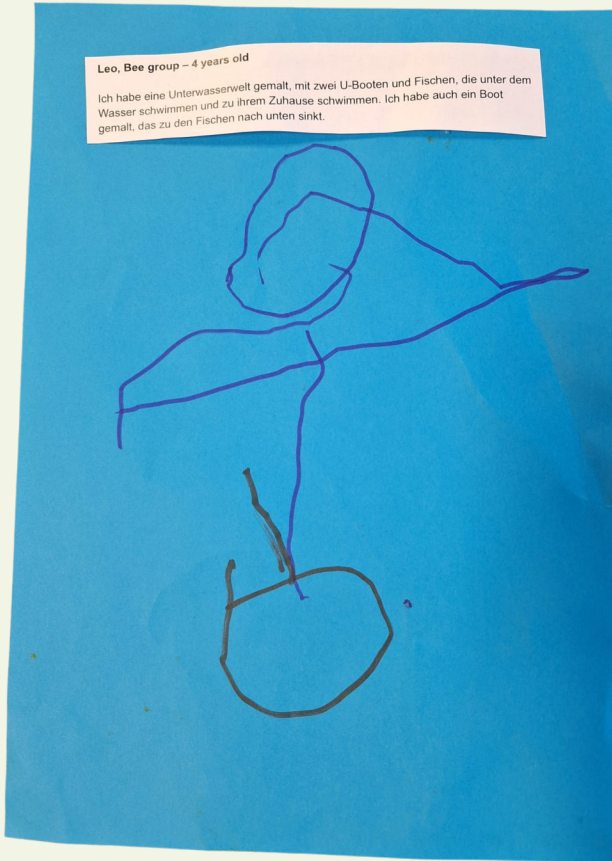
X, Bee Group - 5 years old

This is my underwater picture.

I drew corals, an octopus with 8 arms, fish, and a shark. The fish are swimming and some are jumping out of the water. I like my ocean picture.



KG ART



X, Bee Group - 4 years old

Ich habe eine Unterwasserwelt gemalt, mit zwei U-Booten und Fischen, die unter dem Wasser schwimmen und zu ihrem Zuhause schwimmen. Ich habe auch ein Boot gemalt, das zu den Fischen nach unten sinkt.



X, Bee Group - 4 years old

This is my underwater picture.
I draw yellow fish and black and brown fish. I draw pink corals. The fish are good and they are eating small fish.

SEA STARS

Article is about Sea Stars

Information about Sea Stars

Sea Stars are animals that live in all the world's oceans. They have five arms and look like stars. For that reason, they are often called starfish. But they are not fish.

Fish have backbones. Sea stars do not.

There are about 1,800 species, or kinds, of sea stars. They can be brown, red, orange, pink, or other colours. Most sea stars are 8 to 12 inches (20 to 30 cm across). The body and the arms are covered with short spines. Many sea stars can grow another arm if they lose one.



Sources:

Britannica

NARWHALS

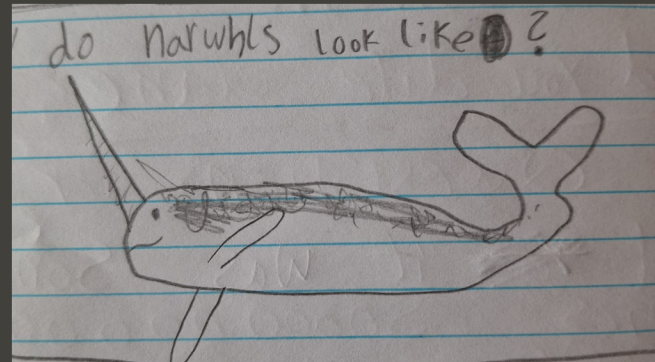
Artcile is about Narwhals

Narwhals are found in arctic waters. they swim in the deep waters along the coasts, and in rivers throughout the arctic.

Narwhals like to be in big groups with other narwhals. When they migrate (travel) to and from their summer and winter feeding groups, groups of several thousand narwhals may travel together.



What does a Narwhal look like?



A Narwhal by Miss L

Fun Fact!

In the past, people thought that the narwhals were a type of unicorn.

Sources

Britannica

PROTECTING UNDERWATER ECOSYSTEMS

WRITTEN BY MR. DOBRE

Earth's water covers about 71% of its surface. All of this water is filled with water creatures, but humans throw much trash and oil into the ocean, killing marine creatures. Without the creatures, many ecosystems would fail, causing more animals to die of starvation. Everyone needs to pay attention to where their trash is going and clean up others' trash. The fish die because of tiny things in plastic called microplastics, which are eaten by fish, causing the fish to be poisoned and mostly die.

CORAL LIFE: Corals are a really beautiful aspect of the seas; however, many corals today are dying because of these reasons:

- climate change: many corals are dying out because of the hot weather.
- Sea climates: the seas are getting hotter and hotter, which causes corals to die.
- Overfishing and tourism: sometimes, when people are fishing or visiting the ocean, they sometimes don't think before they do things and cause the deaths of many corals.



Extinct fish:

Many fish species have gone extinct throughout history, including Dunkleosteus and the Coelacanth, which provide insight into ancient aquatic ecosystems.

Problem:

- Too much trash in our oceans
- Tourists disrespect rules and damage marine life
- Overfishing

Solution:

- Throw your trash in the trash cans, not in the ocean
- If you are going to places close to the ocean, respect the corals and fish
- When fishing, make sure to fish in spots where you are allowed to fish.



Dr. J

CAPYBARAS

Article is about Capybaras

Capybaras are a type of rodent, but you won't find those guys caught in a mouse trap. Some people believe that capybaras are cute, but they are mighty.

Some bird species think capybaras are a great place to take a rest. 😂 But a chilled out capybara doesn't mind at all.

The birds help keep the capybaras clean by feeding on insects on the capybaras back.



Fun fact!

Capybaras are able to stay fully submerged in water while still keeping a close lookout for predators, like anacondas, jaguars and eagles.

Capybaras also use the water to stay cool during the heat of the day.



Fun Fact!

Capybaras can attack Jaguars, eagles and anacondas!

Sources

Britannica

All about capybaras! - Next generation science - Youtube



CREDITS: MS. L AND MR. K
KAUFLAND INVESTIGATION



One day, Mr. K and Ms. L went to Kaufland to investigate sustainable fishing. They were able to ask one question to the fish saleslady:

Where did you get the fish from?

“There is a book in which they wrote where all the fish came from, and there is also a website for Kaufland that tells you where the fish came from.”

They then researched and got some answers.

What is the most popular fillet?

Lachs und Lachsfillet.

What fish was the most expensive?

- Kaucherlachs “Der Kelte”
- Lachsfilet “Graved”
- Räucherlachsfilet “Classic”

They all cost 4.99 Euros

Are most fish fished sustainably?

No, not really.

7 are sustainable, 15 are not sustainable.

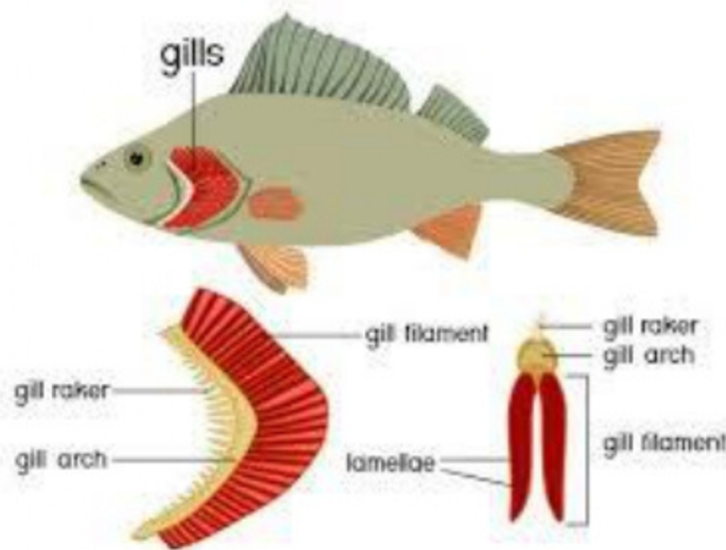
Life under water by X



How does animals live and survive underwater

There is a lot of difference between how does an animal live and how does a human live. For example, humans can't breathe under water, but we can breathe when we are on the ground. For them, they can live on the ground, but they can under water and there is different way for them to breathe under water. for example, fish can breathe by using their gills, but they can't use it above the ground.

But humans can breathe on the ground by using their lungs, but he can't breathe under water.



And here we can see that life under water is so interesting. Imagine all what we have discovered underwater is about only 20 percent, so there are 80 percent we still do not know about life under water.

Sources:

<https://www.petmd.com/fish/how-do-fish-breathe>

<https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/ocean-fact/explored/>

Interview with Ms. Sarah

When you dive, what kind of sea creature did you see, and what are they doing?

Most of my diving, I've been very lucky, it's been on the great barr reef in Australia. I've seen so many sea creatures...

Like sharks?

I did see many sharks. I didn't realize how many different types of sharks there are! There is one that can bite its own tail. I also saw things like lionfish, which are very poisonous, also octopi, Nemo's, an napoleon Wrasse.

I actually worked on a boat for three months, and we took people out to dive in the same spots, and there was a Napoleon Wrasse that we knew as it almost came back. Also barracudas, tunas, and manta rays. Lots of coral, too. And they were always doing different things, like finding food or sleeping on the bottom. There is a kind of fish, Goby, that makes a little hole in the sand and they like cleaning their own area by putting stones in their mouths. Some looked like they were hiding or playing.

How did you feel when you dive?

It's quite interesting, as you can't talk with a big thing in your mouth. It's very quiet, peaceful, and relaxing.

Was there some bad parts, or not interesting?

Yes, some other places weren't as colorful as the Great Barrier Reef. Some places are more interesting to dive than others. Oh, I saw turtles as well.

Did any shark attack you?

No, I know you hear about it in the news a lot, but like most animals as long as you don't hurt or scare them they just swim around you. Sometimes the funny fish that clean seem like they come up to your mask to shout at you.

Did you ever dive alone?

No, I never have. You shouldn't dive on your own, even if your experiences, cause if anything happens, like what you don't expect, like running out of air, if you're alone, it can be dangerous. I don't recommend it.

How do you become a scuba diver?

It's like any skill; you have to learn how to do it. When I first started, I tried to see how I felt, then I did a course to learn all the rules about diving and the things by reading and writing, I then practiced in the pool and then the ocean.

There are also different levels, like an open diver and then an advanced diver, and now I am a rescue diver, so I can rescue other divers.

How many Barrier Reefs did you dive in?

I probably have done about 150 dives in the Great Barrier Reef.

Each time, did you feel it was becoming emptier?

Like theres less there?

Interview with Ms. Sarah

Yes less corals, and turning grey.

Well, the last time I went diving there, it was 18 years old, and they were already getting concerned. It is a protected area, and they only allow you to go to certain areas. It's well protected in Australia. I don't think for certain that you are allowed to fish there. But they were concerned about changing sea levels, leaving coral out in the air.

Did you know that corals make their own sunscreen? So it's protected a bit.

Does coral breathe?

It's like a plant, so it gets air.

You're not allowed to take anything from the ocean!

How did you feel after diving?

Tired.

Is it really cold?

It depends on where you go. They also have different kinds of wetsuits. I often wore one cause I did get cold. Wetsuits have different thicknesses. If you dive somewhere really cold, you go in a dry suit, where its filled with air to keep you warm.

Did you also dive with waves?

Yeah, but you don't feel those, but there are currents. You can just float, and the current takes you along the route.

How old were you start diving?

I think the first time I went diving I was about 27.

How many times did you go diving?

Like over 150 altogether, because I went at least 2 times every day when I worked on the boat.

Are you still diving?

Yes, I still dive.

Where?

I've been to Croatia, in Florida, and other places...

What about Egypt?

Egypt is supposed to be good, but it will also be very busy.

What about Germany?

A lot of the diving is like diving, and it's not as much you can see as the water is not very clear. I haven't done it yet.

Interview with Ms. Sarah

This year, we are making a newspaper about sea creatures, like capybaras, so we wanted an interview.

Oh, I've dived in South America. So, do you just want to learn about the ocean or things in particular?

We want the people to know about how special the ocean is!

Yes its very special, and it's special to dive. I read that we have discovered more of space than the ocean. As further down, there's so much pressure that we can only dive so deep. There's one trench they haven't found the bottom of yet. But not everywhere is as good as Australia at taking care of ocean life. Like when people visit, they would like to dive, but Australia only lets a certain number of people visit, and no one is allowed to take anything or touch anything. And some places care more about making money than taking care of the creatures of the ocean.

Was there one time you went really far down that you don't have enough air to come up?

No, because I did a lot of diving, so I was really good at being careful of air, so I can do three long dives on one tank, and my husband ends up having to use some of my air cause he runs out too quickly

It did happen once that a customer's tube snapped, and they had to use some of my air, and I helped them up.

So you saved somebody's life?

I don't think we were that deep, I think they could've come up on their own, but I helped them stay calm and go up slowly.

You have to go up slowly to the top, you can't go too quickly, do you know why?

There is a different type of air, and if you go too quickly, you can have air bubbles coming up inside you, and you need special medical treatment.

Why is the air getting lower down?

What you breathe out is carbon dioxide, that's not good to breathe back in; that's why the mix in your tank is different. That's why you have to be careful. If you go past 15m you have to stop and wait a minute to let your body get used to the pressure.

Why do you snorkel in Australia?

Because the barrier reef is very famous, it's one of the wonders of the world, and you can see it from space. So I wanted to go see it as it was beautiful. So I snorkelled and dived there.

Can you only dive with your mouth?

Yes, because you have a mask and goggles that cover your nose, so you have to breathe through your mouth, which makes you quite thirsty.

Interview with Ms. Sarah

But you don't wear your own glasses?

In the masks you get for diving, you can get the glasses in the mask to be in your prescription. You usually borrow from there if you visit, but if you have your own mask, you can have your special stuff added in.

Do you have your own mask?

I used to have one, but now it's too old and I might need a new one.

Did you ever have problems diving?

In the beginning, I used to have a problem with my size. I am tall but not big, so I shouldn't need much weight to keep me at the bottom, but the instructors were always surprised with how much weight I needed. You always have your equipment, like vests, whistles, and air, and a belt with special weights, cause we are supposed to float back up, so the weights let you stay down. So you have to learn how much weight you need and how to balance yourself with air in and out of your vest.

Can we have a picture of you in our newspaper?

Yes, would you like a diving picture?

Yes!

When did you finish diving?

Well, I haven't finished, I still go when I can. I don't go every week, but when I go on holiday, I always go. You can keep doing it.

Did you ever do river diving?

No

How many years did you dive?

More than 20.

Why never rivers?

It doesn't interest me, I want to see what's under the water, but in rivers you don't often see much around you (water unclear), but in Australia you can see very far. That's why it's better, but it depends on where you want to go. But before you go, you have to get a check from your doctor.

Why?

Have you ever gone to the pool very deep? So if you go deep in the ocean, if you have problems with your ears, you've got to make sure the pressure on your ears is ok. Or things like your heart. The doctor has to say yes.

Interview with Ms. Sarah

And if he says no, will he give you something special?

Sometimes he just has to say sorry you can't go.

You can go diving!

I can because the doctor says it's ok. But for example, my son Luke needs to go to the doctor cause when he was little he needed something in his ears, so we need to check it's safe. We will have to ask the doctor.

Do you have to know how to swim to dive?

Not really, but it's probably a good idea.



Divers in action!



PYP BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

By: Ms. Kayla

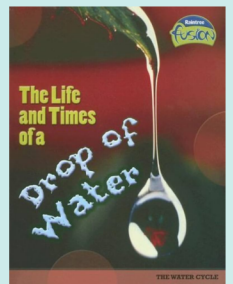
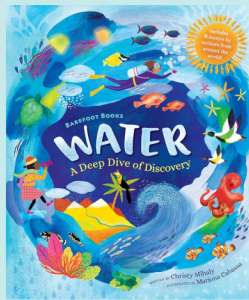


Books Based on SDG 14: Life Below Water

Shark lady. The daring tale of how Eugenie Clark dove into history by Jess Keating, Marta Alvarez Miguens

Water: a deep dive of discovery by Christy Mihaly

The big book of the blue by Yuval Zommer, Barbara Taylor

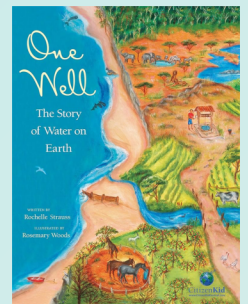


Books Based on SDG 6: Clean Water

Somebody swallowed Stanley by Sarah Roberts

The life and times of a drop of water by Angela Royston

One well: the story of water on Earth by Rochelle Strauss



Books about Water

Small, sparkling raindrop by Mary Auld

Drip! drop!: how water gets to your tap by Barbara Seuling

Water, water everywhere by Mark Rauzon

All the water in the world by George Ella Lyon

Splish, splash, splosh! by Mick Manning and Brita Granström

Water everywhere by Jill Atkins

PYP recommendations are found in the PYP Library

Interview with Ms. N



Ms. N is the primary school principal.

Why do some classes have aquariums and others don't?

This is a choice for teachers. If they would like to have an aquarium they can. However, this is a lot responsibility for teachers. They also need be responsible for the fish when we are on holidays.

Do you like fish?

Yes

What is your favourite fish?

Parrot fish

What do you do against ocean pollution?

If there is rubbish in the ocean, I take it out and put it in the bin.

What can we do against ocean pollution?

Fine people who are caught polluting the water.

Do you have a secret tip or opinion on ocean pollution?

No secret tip, however, simply don't do it. How is this fair for our marine animals?

When you go buy fish at the market, do you look for a sign that means the fishing was sustainable?

Unfortunately, I have not yet been to a market that displays this sign. However, when I lived in Australia and went fishing, we always abided by the laws of how many fish we could catch.

Journalists:
Everyone!

Interview with Ms. N

How do you feel about the ocean getting dirtier and plants and fish losing their home? And plants and fish are dying?

Absolutely terrible! The destruction to coral reefs is shocking!

Can you name anything from Sea Law?

No

Which kind of fish have you seen? When swimming or in aquariums?

Mackeral, snapper, parrot fish, coral trout, emperor, sweet lip, goat fish (this was in Australia)



Mackeral



Snapper



Trout

Do you have any questions for Mr. N?

You can find her in the primary principals office.

What's Next?

Third Edition Goals

- Edition 3 will focus on SDG 15: Life on Land
- We want to learn more about animals, plants, oxygen, habitats, and leisure.
- We want people to protect the environment more!

Let's celebrate!

Our **inaugural** (*that means first*) edition was sold at the winter market and collected over 100 euros in total!

With that money we were able to donate to: WWF, The Great Barrier Reef Foundation, and The Ocean Cleanup.

Credits:

All pictures used were with permission or from the website <https://unsplash.com/> which allows for pictures to be taken freely.

Everyone interviewed has given their consent for their answers and picture to appear in this edition.

Books and websites used for the research are found on the bottom of every article.

This is the Datenschutz version.

All articles were written by students themselves. Positive feedback is appreciated.

Thank You
For
Reading

Your voice matters! If you would like to join our next edition join the UNSDG Newspaper club OR send your article to Ms. Eva: eva.hoedjes@sischool.de