



**PLASTIC FREE
MARIANAS**

MARINE DEBRIS FACE MAKING ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVE

Using art to explore the impact of and solutions to plastic pollution in our community.

AGES

8+. Younger children are able to do this activity as well, but additional help may be needed to support the students.

MATERIALS

- Canvas, repurposed wood pieces, or cardboard (1 per student)
- Various colors of acrylic paint
- Paint brushes (1 per student)
- Glue (Elmer's glue preferred)
- Marine debris in an assortment of colors and sizes (ranging from 1/4 inch to 4 inches); at least 20 pieces per student
- Tarp, towels, or tablecloths

PREPARATION & SETUP

1. Collect marine debris. Teachers can ask students to do a personal beach cleanup and bring 20 pieces with them to school in advance of the project date. All marine debris should be washed and dried prior to the activity.
2. Place tarps, towels, or tablecloths under the canvases before painting and during the drying process.

PART I: CANVAS PREP & MARINE DEBRIS SORTING

1. Have students write their name on the back of their canvas.
2. Talk with students about how their choice of background color will create the mood of their face. Have them pick a color and paint it over the entire canvas.
3. Set aside canvases to allow paint to dry.
4. Sort marine debris by color and place into bins.

PART II: DISCUSSION

1. Where do you think most plastic debris we find comes from?
2. How does plastic affect the ocean?
3. What kind of plastic is most common?
4. Does plastic break down? How long does it last?
5. How does the issue of plastic pollution affect the CNMI and our people?
6. What solutions can you think of to help our oceans?



Share your artwork on social media
and spread the word by tagging

#PlasticFreeMarianas





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PART III: CREATING MARINE DEBRIS FACES

1. Direct students to take turns in selecting pieces of marine debris to use in creating their faces.
2. Have students lay out their marine debris face on their desks. Give them time to play with different configurations and explore the different emotions with their faces.
3. Once students are ready, have them apply marine debris to their canvases using glue (If you're using Elmer's glue, it dries clear so you can go heavy on the glue).

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Have the students create an accompanying essay or story about the character they just created. Why does this character care about plastic pollution and what will they do about it?
2. Display the students' artwork in an exhibit at the school or neighboring areas.
3. Create holiday ornaments or decoration out of marine debris.
4. Fundraise for your school! Sell student art or host an art auction.

TIPS

Share these plastic free tips with your students after the lesson:

- Practice the 3Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse!
- Bring your own reusable water bottle, bag, utensil, and containers so you can refuse plastic!
- Choose products sold in reusable or compostable containers.
- Reduce your consumption of plastic packaging when shopping.
- Pick up plastic and litter at the beach, your school, or your neighborhood!

Discuss the ways in which your school community can reduce single-use plastics on campus. Think outside the box by merging science and math with the arts to find creative ways to share what you've learned and be part of the plastic solution. Put your ideas into action by launching a Plastic Free campaign on campus!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PLASTIC FREE MARIANAS, VISIT

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