

**Finn the Fortunate Tiger Shark's workshop;  
How we can protect our Oceans!**



**This workshop outline is designed for children aged between 4 and 8.**

**Suggested workshop format:**

- Start with a 5-10 minute book reading with questions
- Select one or more of the activities suggested below after the reading
- End with an arts and crafts or “maker” session
- If possible arrange an end of term excursion also!

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**Activity 1**

Reading Finn the Fortunate Tiger Shark and his Fantastic Friends or listening to the audiobook. Discuss the book and answer any questions. **(10 mins)**

**Activity 2**

**Game: What can Finn have for dinner? (15 mins)**

Gather some natural items, such as bananas, oranges or orange peel etc, and some man made items such as trainers, plastic bottles and hats, and some man made items made from natural materials such as paper and wooden spoons.

Lay them out and ask the children to pick out what Finn and his friends could eat safely, and what would make him poorly. This game can teach young children the difference between what is natural and man-made and what is considered harmful to animals.

Some objects can be more obvious than others and it can be a good way to discuss **materials** and **what things are made of**. All the natural materials can be eaten of course, but it should also raise a discussion about whether they should be in the ocean in the first place.

(Finn's normal diet is jelly fish, crustaceans, **fish**, seals, birds, squid, turtles, sea snakes, dolphins, and even other smaller sharks.)

### **Activity 3**

#### **How does plastic get into the ocean? Where does most of it come from? (15 mins)**

Get the students to map the journey of a plastic bag from the supermarket to the ocean. Print out the images from the photo pack and have them place them in the correct order. To make it more exciting give them a time limit or a reward for getting it right.

### **Activity 4**

#### **Where is away? (20 mins)**

Where does our rubbish go when you throw it in the bin? Ask the children to name different things they put in the bin, and then discuss what happens to them.

This will depend on your local council, so you will need to find out, but on the whole, If you put these items in the recycling, this is what happens in the UK;

- Cardboard is recycled and made into new cardboard products
- Paper is recycled and used to make recycled paper products
- Plastic is recycled and used to make other plastic products (but only 43% of it currently gets recycled here in the UK)
- If your food waste is collected, it is made into compost which can be used on gardens
- Most of the glass we recycle here in the UK is used to make new glass bottles and jars
- However if any of these items are dirty when they go into your recycling, they can be sent to a landfill site. This isn't good as it means we cannot use it again, and our landfill sites are getting very full!
- If clothes are put in your rubbish bins they will also go to landfill sites – what a shame when they could go to a charity shop or a friend!

- Some types of plastics are also not recyclable and so tend to go to landfill, especially single use plastics like plastic bags, plastic cutlery and straws.
- Corks are not recycled by many councils but you can compost them or send them to a specialist site
- Nappies often end up in landfill but there are a few specialists who will collect them – why not use reusable nappies instead?
- Foil is not recyclable, but you can wash it and reuse it! Or better still use a Tupperware box for your sandwiches.

This is why it is important to recycle as much as possible because a lot of ocean plastic and waste comes from open dumps in countries where they do not have the facilities to recycle, or from litter blowing off the beach or into our rivers which gets into our seas.

Set up three boxes, one for things that can be recycled, one for things that can be reused and one for things that cannot be recycled or reused and ask the children to put the items in the right box. Decorate the boxes with ocean creatures to remember why you're doing it!

Then you can take all of the non-recyclable items and ask the children to come up with ideas for what we could use in place of those items.

### **Activity 5**

#### **What will you find at the beach today? (10 mins)**

Ask the children to collect plastic rubbish from home and bring it to school. Ask them to guess which items are most often found in the sea?

Answer in order of most found; (Cigarette butts), plastic lids, plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic food containers, and plastic cutlery. How many of these items do you use every day? How many did you use today?

Talk about how you can avoid using those items when you go to the beach or in your day-to-day lives.

### **Activity 6**

#### **What can you do? (20 minutes)**

Ask all the children what changes they would like to make to their lives to use less plastic or to stop plastic getting into the sea. Ask them to write their pledges up and pin them to the wall. Use the A-Z at the back of the book to discuss ideas.

Ask the children what changes they would like the school to make as well. Pin these ideas up on the wall and help them to turn these asks into an assembly for the rest of the school.

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## Maker Session 1

Make your own underwater creature or useful item (25-30 mins)



Have the children collect plastic rubbish from home and bring it to school. In groups of 3, the students can create their own plastic art, which can be inspired by the characters in **Finn the Fortunate Tiger Shark**.

Have the creatures carry a message: **don't throw plastic in the sea!**

## Maker Session 2

Make your own party decorations to use instead of balloons

- Make a shiny paper chain out of used crisp packets
- Make paper windmills using scrap paper and plastic straws salvaged from the rubbish bin
- Make paper streamers/dancers from waste paper

## Maker Session 3



Send an even bigger message to the world. Collect all the plastic you would have thrown away over the entire term and make a giant plastic marine animal! This can be a very fun collective project for the whole school. Or, each class can contribute with its own animal and you can create an exhibition.

## Maker Session 4

Come up with your own slogans or signs to protect the ocean. What do you want to tell people about litter? What message do you want to share with your friends and family? Help the children to make posters to take home with them to help their families to cut down on plastic.



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## Excursions

Arrange a beach or park clean up for the class. You can ask the local authority to provide recycling bags and protective gloves and tabards. Ask the children to bring a packed lunch and try to use as little plastic or waste as possible – make art out of the plastic you did need to use or other things e.g. foil. There are many existing beach clean ups you can get involved in. See <https://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/user/register>

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