OCEAN PLASTICS LAB
Scientific insights into marine plastic pollution
Topics

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1. WHAT IS THE OCEAN PLASTICS LAB?

**Initiative:** The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research in cooperation with Directorate General Research and Innovation of the European Commission and the German Marine Research Consortium launched the internationally travelling exhibition Ocean Plastics Lab to raise public awareness about the growing problem of plastic pollution in our ocean.

**Aim of the exhibition:** To present the role of science in understanding and combatting plastic pollution in the seas and oceans and engage citizens to contribute to tackling the issue.
2. PLASTIC WASTE – AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

Scientific estimates indicate that there are over 5 trillion pieces of plastic weighing over 250,000 tons floating around in the world’s oceans.

The pollution of the seas and oceans by plastic has dire consequences – animals get caught up in plastic waste and mistake it for food.

It also has an impact on humans who consume microplastics when eating seafood. We are only just beginning to understand the exact implications of this cycle.

The rate at which the pollution is taking place is tremendous...
4.8 TO 12.7 BILLION KILOS OF PLASTIC WASTE END UP IN THE OCEANS EACH YEAR.

ONE HOUR = \(35 \times \text{unit symbol}\)

ONE DAY = \(850 \times \text{unit symbol}\)

ONE YEAR = \(310,000 \times \text{unit symbol}\)

* This calculation is based on the annual mass of 8.7 billion kilos. A 20-foot shipping container can hold a mass of 28,230 kilos of plastic.
3. THE EXHIBITION
CONTAINER 1

INTRODUCTION
The theme of the exhibition is introduced in the first container through interactive stations and artistic installations.
CONTAINER 2

SEE THE WASTE

The second container on the exhibition route shows the methods used by scientists to conduct research on pollution of the seas and oceans and presents the current findings of research.
The third container allows visitors to get 'hands-on' through interactive exhibits and to find out how plastic waste can endanger marine life and humans.
In the final exhibition container, citizens discover how they can reduce their private plastic consumption through their personal decisions or so-called citizen-science campaigns to protect the oceans against plastic waste or to rid them of it.
Students give school pupils a helping hand

During the Ocean Plastic Labs opening hours, students are on site to explain the contents of the exhibition to visitors and answer questions on the topic. They are easily recognisable by their t-shirts or pullovers featuring the OPL logo and the word ‘crew’.

The exhibition contains various interactive exhibits which the crew are happy to explain.
4. PREVIOUS TOUR STOPS

- Turin, Italy
- Paris, France
- Brussels, Belgium
- Washington, D.C., USA
- Ottawa, Canada
- Berlin, Germany
- Lisbon, Portugal
Visit by the former Federal Minister of Education and Research Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka and the EU Commissioner Carlos Moedas

Visit by the Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof. Mohammad Yunus (2006)

Visit by the Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans
Visit by the Head of the EU Delegation to the USA Caroline Vicini and Deputy German Ambassador to the USA Boris Ruge

Washington National Mall

Washington D.C., USA

4.6–17.6.2018

Visit by the German Ambassador to Canada Sabine Sparwasser and the Canadian Environment Minister Catherine McKenna

Canadian Museum of Nature

Ottawa, CANADA

30.7–12.8.2018

Visit by Green Talents, German Marine Research Consortium Board Member Prof. Martin Visbeck and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research Representative Dr. Dietrich Nelle

Schiffbauerdamm

Berlin, GERMANY

21.10.–29.10.2018

Visit by Green Talents, German Marine Research Consortium Board Member Prof. Martin Visbeck and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research Representative Dr. Dietrich Nelle
Lisbon, PORTUGAL

Ciência Viva – Pavilhão do Conhecimento

14.5.–26.5.2019

Visit by Sigi Gruber, Head of Unit, Marine Resources, DG RT, European Commission and Wilfried Kraus, Head of sub-department 72 ‘Sustainability, Climate and Energy’ at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.
If you would like to visit the exhibition with your class, you have the option of booking an organised **30-minute tour** where you are **personally accompanied** by one of our crew members.

The school tours are **free of charge** and children should be aged 8 or over.

**Slogan:**

**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SCHOOL’S VISIT!**
5. CONTACT

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Visit our website
oceanplasticslab.net