Our Choices Matter

- Resource Guide -

Overview

S.E.A. Aquarium aims to acquaint children with the majestic oceans and their inhabitants, and explore the interconnectedness between our lives and various aquatic habitats in or around Singapore.

We hope to emphasise the importance of making the right choices in our lives to make Singapore waters a safer and better environment for marine animals. Children can take action by exploring and understanding possible effects of their daily choices on the marine community, and co-create ideas to protect marine animals and their homes.

SSDB E-resources

This set of resources includes a story and a resource guide. This guide aims to help educators to facilitate the story and navigate the slides.
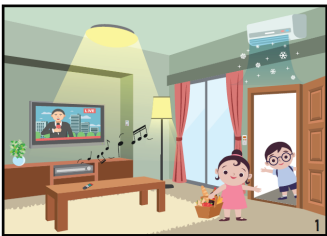
There are four parts to the story and each part includes two choices that the children can make. Based on their choices, educators can then discuss various conservation issues to help children kick-start their project.

Part 1 – Coral Bleaching
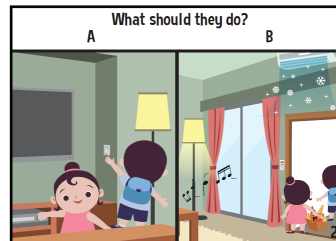
Slide 1

Explain story by using the picture provided.

The siblings are ready to leave the house for a picnic with their friends by the beach.

However, the electrical appliances at home are left switched on.

Slide 2

Prompt question: "What should the siblings do?"

- A: Switch off electrical appliances or,

- B: Leave home without switching off electrical appliances

Invite children to make their choice and encourage them to explain.

Slide 3

If children chose A:

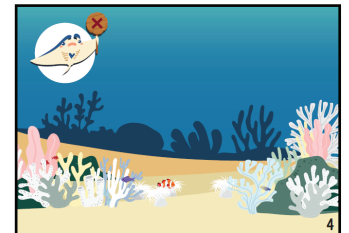This choice can help protect the ocean.

Explanation:

Switching off unused electrical appliances helps to use less energy, which is less harmful to the environment.

This also prevents the ocean from getting too warm.

Slide 4

If children chose B:

This is not the preferred choice.

Explanation:

Using more electricity consumes more energy. This is harmful to the environment and can lead to a warmer ocean.

Warmer ocean can cause colourful corals to lose their colours and turn white – also known as coral bleaching.

If corals turn white, animals will lose their homes. Unable to camouflage amongst the corals, colourful animals can also be spotted easily.

Part 2 - Pollution

Slide 5

Explain story by using the picture provided.

The siblings and their friends enjoyed the picnic and are ready to leave the beach.

However, the trash are not cleared up and the bins are not near them.

Slide 6

Prompt question: "What should the siblings do?"

- A: Pack up and throw the trash into the respective bins or,

- B: Leave the trash on the beach

Invite children to make their choice and encourage them to explain.

Slide 7

If children chose A:

This choice can help protect the ocean.

Explanation:

Clearing up the trash keeps the animals' homes clean.

Refer to slide 8 to explain what would happen if the trash are left behind on the beach.

Slide 8

If children chose B:

This is not the preferred choice.

Explanation:

The trash left on the beach can end up in the ocean.

The ocean will get dirty and marine animals will get sick easily.

Marine animals may get stuck among the trash and unable to swim around to look for food.
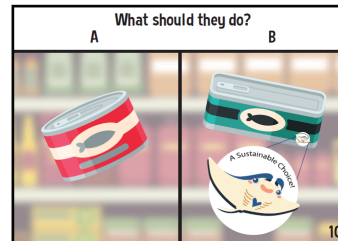
Part 3 - Unsustainable Fishing

Slide 9

Explain story by using the picture provided.

After the picnic, the siblings made a trip to the supermarket with their parents.

The siblings are choosing between a can of seafood with and without sustainable seafood logo.

Slide 10

**Prompt question:
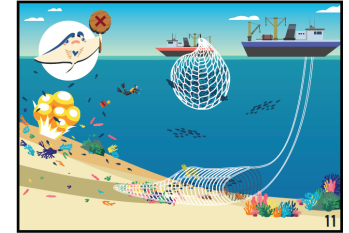"Which can of seafood should the siblings choose?"**

- A: Without sustainable seafood logo or,

- B: With sustainable seafood logo

Invite children to make their choice and encourage them to explain.

Slide 11

If children chose A:

This is not the preferred choice.

Explanation:

Without sustainable seafood logos, seafood may be caught using methods that can harm other marine animals and their homes:

- Dynamite fishing uses explosives which can destroy the surrounding environment.

- Trawling on the seabed can damage coral reefs as fishing nets drag across the seabed.

- Catching too many fishes at once will lead to a decrease in the number of fishes.

Slide 12

If children chose B:

This choice can help protect the ocean.

Explanation:

Seafood with sustainable seafood logos are caught using methods that do not harm other marine animals and their homes.
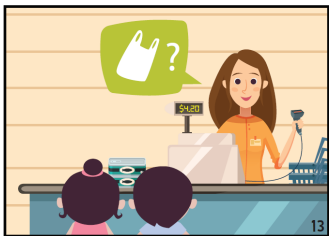
Refer to slide 11 to explain what would happen if we chose seafood without sustainable seafood logo.

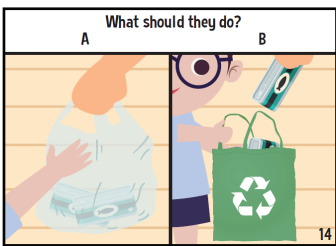# Part 4 – Plastic Pollution

Slide 13

Explain story by using the picture provided.

The siblings proceed to the cashier after selecting the can of seafood.

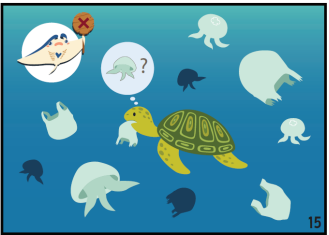The cashier asked if they require any plastic bags to carry the items.

Slide 14

What should they do?

Prompt question: "Should the siblings take the plastic bag?"

- A: Get a plastic bag from the cashier or,

- B: Put the items into their own reusable bags

Invite children to make their choice and encourage them to explain.

Slide 15

If children chose A:

This is not the preferred choice.

Explanation:

Plastic bags that are not disposed properly may end up in the ocean. Marine animals such as sea turtles may mistake plastic bags as food and become sick after eating them.

Using less plastic bags could reduce the need to dispose them and hence lesser plastic bags would end up in the ocean.

Slide 16

If children chose B:

This choice can help protect the ocean.

Explanation:

By using their own bags, less plastic bags would be used and lesser would end up in the ocean.
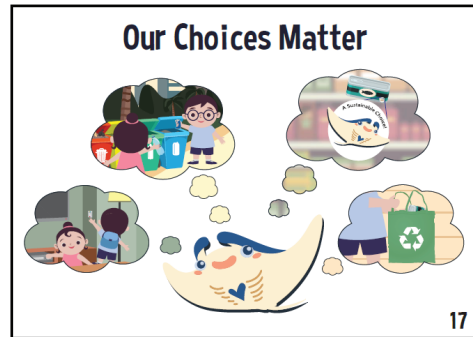
Refer to slide 15 to explain what would happen if we chose to take plastic bags.

Conclusion

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Educators can prompt children to suggest what they can do in their daily lives:
– Switching off electrical appliances when not in use
– Throwing of trash into the respective bins
– Choosing sustainable seafood
– Using less plastic bags when possible

Educators can end off by emphasising that everyone can play a part and every choice can affect marine animals in different ways.

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