Dive into an ocean of knowledge

COOL AUSTRALIA, AN EDUCATIONAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT THAT HELPS TEACHERS FIND WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUNG AUSTRALIANS, PROVIDES A LESSON PLAN AND AFFORDABLE ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO GROW THEIR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS ANYWHERE, ANYTIME AND AT THEIR OWN PACE.

ABOUT BLUE BY NORTHERN PICTURES

Blue, a feature documentary film by Northern Pictures, takes us deep into the Pacific Ocean, into bustling fish markets in Indonesia and remote tropical beaches in the Coral Sea. Blue is a cinematic song for our oceans; beautiful, intimate and grand. No matter where you are in Australia, it will make you want to rise up with the waves. Told through the eyes of seven Ocean Guardians, Blue is an exceptional educational tool that ignites a curiosity and love of learning about our liquid world.

ABOUT COOL AUSTRALIA

Cool Australia is an education not-for-profit that helps teachers find cool ways to critically engage, involve and switch on young Australians to learn for life. Last year, Cool Australia helped 76,000 exceptional educators teach 1.7 million young Aussies using free units of work and lesson plans and affordable online professional development to grow their professional skills anywhere, anytime and at their own pace.

Cool Australia has collaborated with Northern Pictures to provide a free teacher toolkit (https://goo.gl/n6JoDx) for Blue. Tap into 62 lesson plans and student activities, 120 hours of activities, 160 factsheets and a compelling digital library of digital resources.

These curriculum-aligned lessons span many year levels and subject areas, and include never before seen video clips from the film. Also included is everything that a teacher might need to involve young people in interesting and meaningful learning.

ABOUT THIS LESSON

In this Years 9–10 English social action lesson, students will create and deliver a campaign inspired by a campaign featured in Blue. Students will watch a clip that features Madison Stewart, a.k.a. Shark Girl, and analyse how she works to create change around the issue of shark fishing. In a “Think-Pair-Share” activity, students share what they have done in their lives to influence change. In groups, students find out more about campaigns linked to Blue, and choose one to work on to become an Ocean Guardian.
**CURRICULUM LINKS**

English: Years 9 - 10
General capabilities: Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding
Cross-curriculum priority: Sustainability
Time required: 60 minutes

**WHAT YOU’LL NEED:**
- Device capable of presenting a website to the class
- Student computers/devices
- Project planning tool
- Presentation space with audio/visual capabilities for student presentations

**TEACHING SEQUENCE**

Activity length: 30 minutes

**TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS**

**Step 1.** Introduce the lesson by informing students that they will be considering the power of youth voice to influence action on issues of global concern. In this instance, the focus will be ocean conservation, becoming an Ocean Guardian and convincing others to do the same. Explain that students will be working in groups to consider a set of existing campaigns and present a campaign from their personal perspective.

**Step 2.** Open the video “Who is Madison Stewart?” at www.vimeo.com/211443955.

**Step 3.** Explain to students that the clip is from *Blue* and features a young campaigner, activist and Ocean Guardian, Madison Stewart. While watching the clip, encourage students note the messages they hear from Madison about young people being able to make a difference.

**Step 4.** After watching the video, facilitate a discussion on the key points made by Madison. Prompt students by asking for their thoughts on these key messages:
- You have the power to make a difference no matter how old you are.
- One person can make a difference.
- You can ask questions about the decisions that are being made by others about your future.

**Step 5.** Explain to students that shared stories are a powerful way to connect with people. Invite the class to engage in the ‘Think, Pair, Share’ visible thinking routine:
Think about a story from their past when they ‘spoke up’. It could be as simple as asking for something they really wanted, or letting someone know they were lost, or speaking up when they saw that someone or something was being treated unfairly. If required, write these questions on the whiteboard and invite students to use them to guide their thinking:
- Where were you?
- What was happening?
- Who was involved?
- What were you feeling?
- What did you do?
- What was the result?

Pair with a classmate to tell the story.
**Share** Ask for volunteers to share their story with the rest of the class.

**Step 6.** Ask the class to comment on the values they think link to the stories. If students need clarification around what values are, use the school’s values to scaffold student discussion. Explain that the value of ‘courage’ can help a person to take action and speak out against something. Ask if any stories shared by the class displayed courage, then ask for any other values that have driven the person to ‘speak up’.
During the discussion, list the values suggested by students on the whiteboard.

**Step 7.** Write the following quote on the whiteboard:
“I’m not 100% sure I’ll save anything, but the principle is that we fight for it in the meantime.” - Madison Stewart

Ask students to consider the values that Madison might have, especially in relation to the work that she does campaigning against shark fishing. Write students’ suggestions under the quote.

**Step 8.** Ask the class to record the values and associated “We will…” statements. Remind students that their actions around issues is important, regardless of how old they are.

**WANT MORE?**
Download free *Blue* lesson plans for the year level or subject area you teach at www.google.com/p2MfN9
Find out more about *Blue* at www.blue-thefilm.org or visit www.coolaustralia.org for more free lessons.