Cool Australia: Messages of Blue

COOL AUSTRALIA IS AN EDUCATIONAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT THAT HELPS TEACHERS FIND WAYS TO ENGAGE, INVOLVE AND SWITCH ON YOUNG AUSTRALIANS TO LEARN FOR LIFE. ITS WEBSITE HAS FREE-TO-ACCESS LESSON PLANS THAT INTEGRATE TOPICS SUCH AS SUSTAINABILITY, ETHICS, ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HISTORIES AND CULTURES, ECONOMICS AND WELLBEING ACROSS SUBJECT AREAS.

ABOUT BLUE BY NORTHERN PICTURES

*Blue,* a feature documentary film by Northern Pictures, takes the viewer 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

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/neJqDx) 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 across many year levels and subject areas, and include never seen before video clips from the film. Also included is everything else that a teacher might need to involve young people in interesting and meaningful learning.

ABOUT THIS LESSON

This Year 3-4 English and science lesson incorporates clips from *Blue* as learning inspiration. Students are introduced to the topics of the unit by identifying the ways they think about and are connected to the ocean. Students begin by completing a ‘Colour-Symbol-Image’ thinking routine. They are then asked to consider how they think about the ocean and work together to produce a word cloud based on their
Students will then consider the messages of Blue – particularly in terms of the animals featured in the film – and work independently to create their own communication piece to share the message that they resonate with the most.

**CURRICULUM LINKS**

English: Years 3 & 4
General capabilities: Literacy, Critical and Creative thinking
Cross-curriculum priority: Sustainability

Time Required: 60 minutes

**WHAT YOU’LL NEED**

Student Worksheet – download for free at www.coolaustralia.org/activity/blue-messages-blue-years-3-4/
Device capable of presenting a website to the class.
Recycled paper and pencil for each student.
Board or butcher’s paper for the class word cloud.
Art materials or digital medium materials.

**TEACHING SEQUENCE**

1 minutes - My Thoughts Matter
1 minutes - Messages of Blue
1 minutes - Reflection

**TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS – MY THOUGHTS MATTER**

Step 1. Provide a piece of recycled paper and a pencil to each student. Invite them to write ‘The Ocean’ at the top of the page. Students then describe their thoughts about the ocean using a colour, a symbol, and an image (this could be a photo or a drawing).

Once complete, invite students to move around the classroom, sharing their ideas with other students, making a note of similarities and differences.

You can then engage students in a class discussion around their ideas, asking the following questions:
- How are our ideas about the ocean similar and different?
- How do you feel about the ocean?
- What is special to you about the ocean?

**TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS – REFLECTION**

Step 2. Watch the following two Blue videos as a whole class.
- Ode to Seabirds – https://vimeo.com/207595690

As students watch the clip, ask them to pay attention to the way it makes them feel. Each student should write down three to five words in response to each clip. Watch the clips separately and provide reflective time between students to write their responses.

Step 3. Once both clips have been viewed and the students have written their words, encourage them to share their responses. Capture the students’ responses as a class by drawing a word cloud. As each student offers a response, write the word clearly on the board or paper.

**TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS – MESSAGES OF BLUE**

Step 1. Explain to students that they will now be creating their own message for Blue. Using the words from your Word Cloud as a starting point, invite the students to create their own connective message to express their thoughts and ideas about the ocean. Encourage the students to be as creative as possible using one of the following mediums – stories/poems, spoken word raps, a drawing with a message, visual performance, digital mediums.

The students can choose either clip as the central theme of their messages: the aim of this activity is to encourage students to think about what is important to them about the ocean and how they feel about this.

Step 2. Once complete, create a gallery walk to share your students’ work with the class. A gallery walk is when students display their work around the classroom, placing a piece of blank paper in front of each piece. Groups rotate around the room and write down their feedback for the creators of the work. They record one thing they liked about the work, one thing they are wondering about the work and one suggestion to improve the work. Students then use this feedback to extend their work and their learning.

**ASSESSMENT IDEAS**

Teachers can use the following items as part of their formative assessment:
- Watching a clip for meaning.
- Formulating personal responses.
- Participation in discussions to express ideas.
- Sharing personal responses.
- Creating a message for an audience.

**WANT MORE?**

Download free Blue lesson plans for the year level or subject area you teach at – https://goo.gl/p2xN9

Find out more about Blue at www.bluefilm.org or visit www.coolaustralia.org for more free lessons.