

From chocolate to the ocean

Series overview: four ready-to-use lessons

with Dr Pendo Maro

Why this series?

Inspired by sessions in Brussels schools, during SDG projects run with teachers and associations. Young people want to understand what is happening to the ocean, and to act: this series gives teachers and educators in upper primary and lower secondary a ready-to-use set of lessons.

Who is it for? Designed in Belgium: for international and European schools, and for any English-medium class that wants to explore the ocean with real local examples. A French edition is already available.

The four lessons at a glance

Lesson	Title	Time	Learners...
1	From chocolate to the ocean	50 min	follow a chocolate bar's journey to the sea, and see where our packaging ends up.
2	What is happening in the ocean?	50 min	discover North Sea animals, run a small experiment and read in expert groups.
3	Our waves – one sea, many messages	2 × 50 min	create a wave in groups, showing what they learnt and a message for the ocean.
4	Who acts, and how?	50 min + action	find out who is already acting, then choose and plan an action for the class.

Designed for ages 10–12 (adaptations for ages 8–9 and 12+); each lesson can also be used on its own.

What each lesson includes

- **A teacher guide:** minute-by-minute plan, instructions, concept-check questions, age adaptations, printable worksheets.
- **Slides:** clear and visual, with teacher notes.
- **An active approach:** learners discover, discuss, create and act; learner-centred teaching.
- **A real local anchor:** the North Sea, its animals and its rules; checked, dated figures.
- **Our principle:** no guilt, no doom. We understand, we create, we act.

Outside Belgium: Lessons 1 and 3 work anywhere. For Lessons 2 and 4, swap the Belgian animals, rules and actors for those of your own coast (help sheet online soon).

Links to the SDGs and to your programme

Lesson	SDG targets	Subjects and skills
1	12.5 · 14.1 · 13.3	Geography and social studies: where products come from, transport, waste. Science: pollution.

Lesson	SDG targets	Subjects and skills
2	14.1 · 14.2 · 14.3	Science: living things and habitats, food chains, human impact; a simple acidification experiment.
3	4.7 · 13.3	Art and design: creating a group work. English: presenting and explaining it, orally or in an exhibition.
4	14.5 · 12.5 · 4.7	Citizenship: debating, deciding together, voting; planning a real class action.

The targets in brief: 4.7 education for sustainable development · 12.5 waste · 13.3 climate · 14.1 marine pollution · 14.2 ecosystems · 14.3 acidification · 14.5 protected areas.

Links naturally with: the IB PYP themes “Sharing the planet” and “How the world works”; Cambridge Primary Science; the European Schools’ Discovery of the World (primary) and Integrated Science (S1–S3); and GreenComp, the EU sustainability framework. Detailed mapping to your own programme is available on request.

Evidence of learning: the chocolate journey, the experts’ answers, the wave presented, the class action plan.

Open to use

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The whole series online: drpendomaro.com/education/en

Your feedback

Tell me how your class responded and what you adapted; share your projects and, with families’ consent, photos of learners’ work.

Learners’ voices: their views matter just as much: a word, a sentence or a drawing about what they learnt or enjoyed. **Write to me:** pendo@drpendomaro.com, subject “Education series – From chocolate to the ocean”.

Who created this series?

A climate scientist, adviser and leader, Dr Pendo Maro holds a doctorate in science from the VUB (environmental change and policy). For over twenty years she has designed and led climate and disaster risk reduction programmes for international organisations and governments, from Europe to Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Cambridge CELTA-certified, she also teaches English and English-language theatre (including musicals) to children in Brussels, from kindergarten to age 11. These lessons use the same learner-centred methods.

What I offer schools and teachers

Some of these services are paid. Interested? pendo@drpendomaro.com

- **Teacher training:** 1 to 3 days, in person or hybrid.
- **Collaborations:** with schools, associations and education projects.
- **Tailor-made:** materials, activities, adapting the series to your region or programme, university seminars.