



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

today 
we have

I LIVE BY 2023 THE SEA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PHOTO AND FILM CONTEST

THE BEST STORIES



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A photograph of a calm sea with several large, white icebergs floating on the surface. The icebergs have various shapes and sizes, some with dark, rocky interiors visible. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue with some white clouds. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

THE BEST STORIES AND PHOTOS

The Sea

by Mara Almeida, 12
PORTUGAL

The sea
I live alone but not when I'm with the sea,
it makes me feel alive
it makes me feel free
I can't even imagine
what would happen to my emotions
if couldn't go out
with my dear oceans
All of the fun things
that I have ever done
whatever I do
I never feel alone
I hope the human being
will save the marine
It saves lots lives
And it makes people sing



Imagine

by Julie Bonacina, 12
PORTUGAL



Imagine
A world without an ocean
A world without its motion
A world with no emotion
Imagine
A world without ice
A world without it's spice
A world making us pay the price
Imagine
A world which is fantastic
A world with less plastic
A world that's not drastic
Imagine
If we all collaborate
We can make this world great
Trust me, it's not too late.

After the storm

by Tomasz Zygmunt, 14
POLAND

I live in Poland near the Baltic Sea. I took my photo on the beach in Lubiatowo, the day after a storm. I choose this picture because I want to pay attention to the problems of our sea, which is the most polluted sea in Europe.

It's important to understand why the Baltic Sea is polluted so much.

Our waters are used by people in many ways: for fishing, shipping, recreation and energy (underwater cables and pipelines). In the Baltic, because of the straits, it's very hard to exchange water with North Sea and the Atlantic – it takes about 30 years.

In the picture, we can see the plastic bottle and blue fishing net washed up from the sea after a storm. Plastic is 70% of all rubbish in the Baltic Sea. It's particularly dangerous because it stays in the environment for a very long time.

I also want to show how seashores are destroyed due to the erosion caused by water motion. After the storm we can see the results of sea level rise. My photo shows a lot of fallen and broken trees. The sea washes the shores so strongly that steep cliffs appear. The cottage on the cliff crest will be taken by the sea in the near future. These are the consequences of global warming which applies to the whole world.

To solve the problems, we should start implementing even the smallest ideas that can have a positive impact on the climate.



It's time to act now

by Michael Gehbauer, 13
PORTUGAL



Plastic pollution in our oceans is a severe environmental problem that is causing immeasurable harm to marine life.

Shockingly, every year, an estimated 100 million animals die due to plastic in the ocean.

This alarming statistic cannot be ignored any longer. The evidence suggests that around 88% of the sea's surface is polluted

by plastic waste,

and an overwhelming 12 million tonnes of plastic enters the ocean annually. The detrimental effects of plastic pollution are devastating, with some creatures becoming entangled in the plastic debris, struggling until they ultimately drown or suffocate. Others, like seabirds, turtles, and fish, ingest plastic, causing their digestive systems to become clogged, leading to their death. The situation is dire, and research indicates that by 2050, plastic will probably outweigh all fish in the sea, a daunting reality given that we have produced more plastic products in the last decade alone than we did in the entire previous century. As inhabitants of the earth, it is our responsibility to take care of the ocean that surrounds us. The future of our planet depends on our actions today, and we must act urgently to reduce our use of plastic. The solution is not simple, but it starts with us. We can recycle what we can, use more reusable products, and properly dispose of hazardous waste. By doing so, we can minimize the amount of plastic waste that enters our oceans, ensuring that future generations can enjoy the wonders of the ocean instead of seeing it as a vast garbage dump.

In conclusion, the consequences of plastic pollution are grave, and we must take responsibility for our actions. We must choose to protect the ocean, or we risk leaving behind a desolate wasteland for future generations. The choice is ours to make, and we must act now to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Little Paradise

by Noa Silva, 14

PORTUGAL

Last year, I went to Mexico for the first time in my life. Mexico was my first trip after covid and it was amazing.

Me and my family were staying in a hotel located in Playa del Carmen.

The view we had from our room was breathtaking.

At night we used to leave our window open so that we could listen to the sound of the waves while we were falling asleep and waking up. The first thing

I did when I arrived at the hotel

was changing my clothes and after I went to the beach. I was interested in what I could find in terms of animals like crabs, fishes or birds. The first thing I could see when I arrived at the beach were beach umbrellas and sun loungers. I didn't like it so I decided to walk along the sea.

I walked and walked and I noticed a little trail on my right between a few big rocks. I followed the trail and it led me to a beautiful desert beach with an amazing view. All I could see were palm trees and birds. I could only hear the sound of nature, I couldn't hear people talking. It was one of the best things that happened to me in my entire life.



Do sea monsters still exist?

by Vera Pinto, 15
PORTUGAL



Once upon a time there was a little girl who had the greatest imagination ever seen.

She spent her time reading books but the ones that always caught her attention were classic epics (examples: The Odyssey and The Lusiads). She found that only these did justice to the grandeur and might the sea commanded in her eyes.

It always intrigued her the way humans were constantly so

frightened of what these forces were able to do or how far they could go to hurt them.

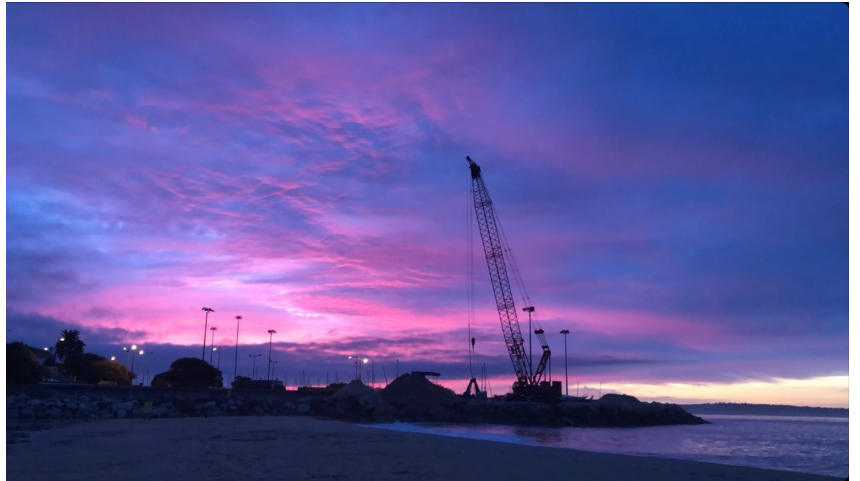
She thought to herself about the sea monsters and the way humans saw the ocean years ago and how they see it now. It's a completely new perspective yet the contemporary monsters are just as deadly, if not more. The girl started drawing the ocean nowadays using her brilliant imagination. She finds that there's still truth to these stories. As such the drawing showed a mesmerizing sea but you could also observe our current sea monsters. Although the other monsters had scary faces these are three times bigger than countries and its impacts ten times more terrifying. An interesting aspect these monsters share is the fact that they were both created by humans, the difference is that one of them is made of 1.8 billion pieces of floating plastic of all shapes and sizes, which kills thousands of animals each year. The little girl thought to herself, "If people today fail to acknowledge the ferociousness of the ocean and the man-made monsters living in it, I may never be able to read a classic facing the blue oceans again."

The ocean, my safe place

by Luísa Nóbrega, 14
PORTUGAL

The ocean, my safe place.

Nowadays things are going down hill, in terms of pollution. People are caring less and it looks like when someone does a good action to the environment, has to publish in the some moment what they did to have a good image to their followers or friends.



But in the other hand some people take their time to collect the garbage from the beaches, especially in their summer time and that is what makes the difference because little things can have a big impact. Usually when I'm stressed out or when I'm upset with something I always go to the beach to watch the sunset, and just the smell of the sea and the sound of the waves makes me feel comfortable and relaxed.

One of the biggest things that I'm afraid of, is that in the next few years I won't be able to go there and have this same experience because we didn't preserve what nature gave us. And if we don't take a action now who will take in the future?

Appreciate

by Tiago Ye Chen, 14
PORTUGAL



I was walking by the beautiful sea wondering about all types of different breeds of animals that are underneath the uncertain ocean, stunned by our nature that treats us with so much care, even though we do not do the same.

I came across this little yellow flower just on the edge of two rocks. I wondered how this little plant got here, amazed once again by the beauty of nature. I walk here every weekend when I'm free to appreciate the nature that surrounds us, and sometimes I just think how lucky I am to be able to have this, because many people don't even see the sea once in their lifetime and I can see it everyday, when I'm walking, when I'm working or even when I'm in the bus.

Unfortunately, one day when I was walking here, I saw the plant dead on the ground. Once a little beautiful yellow happy flower, now immobile in the ground, rotting and dying. This is a lesson that we need to learn, we need to learn to appreciate and to influence our surroundings to make the better version of our beloved planet.

The Cape of Good Hope

by Matilde Batista, 14

PORTUGAL

This picture was taken in the magnificent rocky headland on the Atlantic coast of the Cape Peninsula South Africa, also known as the Cape of Good Hope.

A picture isn't enough to represent the spectacular and splendid greenish-blue waters.

This picture represents kindness.

It represents beauty.

And above all, it means where we live, Earth. It's our home.

Every time I look at this picture,

I think of the immense luck I have to have visited this beautiful place but remember that I'm lucky to live by the sea. The sea. A place where we feel safe and where we can express our feelings. I can't describe my mixed emotions when I first saw this landscape.

I felt happy. I felt clean. I felt light. I felt as if I had to make the most out of that moment. In the Cape of Good Hope, we feel the soft wind pass through our hair, and right afterwards, we feel discomfort. But then we recall that that is nature. I opened my arms and felt the brisk wind running through my arms. I was, and I am still, so grateful for this experience.

I had direct contact with Earth. I could see the white foam from the waves bumping into the cliffs. The blue mixes with the colour green, and when all that happens, we hear the pleasing and peaceful sound of the waves that just make me want to stay.





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Pineapple Seaside

by Lourenço Rio, 14

PORTUGAL

Leaving the house on a sweet sunny day,
nothing else makes me feel quite this way.
The smell of the salt, the sound of the waves,
when you live by the sea you get this every day.
A drink in your hand, while sitting on sand,
a pineapple cup, with an umbrella on top.
The sea is my life, my life is the sea,
I don't know what I'd do without it next to me.
The sea is a temple, the sea is my guide. The
feeling I'm getting is pineapple seaside.



Azul

by Constança dos Santos, 14

PORTUGAL

The sea was here, even when we weren't on planet Earth yet. Life came from it and most living beings still live under it. We did come from it and, somehow, we've forgotten that.

We keep exploring its resources and polluting what is left. But nature is simple in those aspects: what the sea gives, it can take it from us too. Even if we destroyed Earth with ourselves in it, nobody would care.

But in a gigantic universe we've been discovering, we only know about one blue planet, Earth. We might be small but small actions can cause amazing benefits.

Well, we came to the moon. We know more about space than the deep ocean. It shouldn't be that hard to protect it too. ;)

