

Connect-it!

Instruction Manual



New England
Aquarium

Protecting the blue planet

Connect-it!

We all know that certain personal behaviors are good for the environment. However, the connection between these good behaviors and the ocean life we care about can be hard to follow. The goal of this activity is to help make those connections a little more concrete. For each of these behaviors, the images and text will show a connection to CO₂, and therefore to climate change. However, as an educator, you can feel free to make connections to other ocean issues—it's all connected.

Materials

4 large *Preview* panels (turquoise backgrounds)

5 *Question* panels (orange, yellow, green, brown and purple backgrounds)

5 *Organism* panels (blue backgrounds)

35 *Story* panels (orange, yellow, green, brown and purple backgrounds)

5 *Why* panels (blue backgrounds)

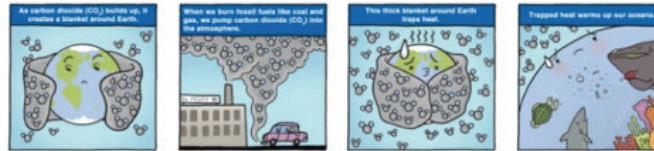
A table or other flat surface

Setup

Arrange the panels on a table or other flat surface, as shown below. You may choose to use all five Question panels, or fewer. If you use fewer than five Question panels, remove their matching Story panels from the mix.

Educator Side

Preview panels, in any order:



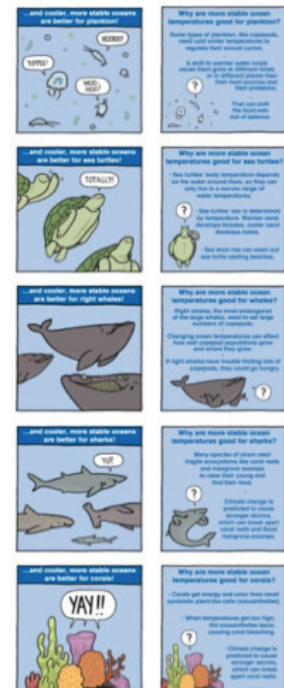
Question panels:



Story panels, shuffled:



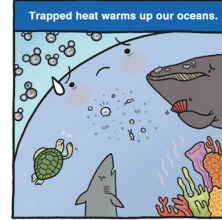
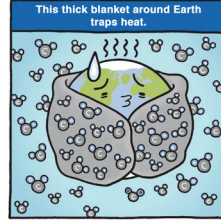
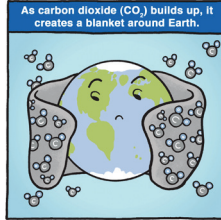
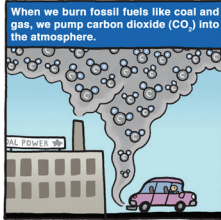
Organism panels, (Why panels hidden under):



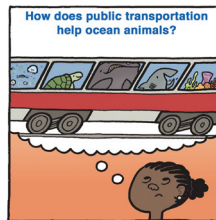
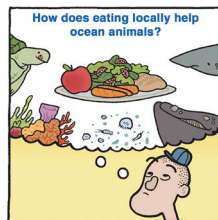
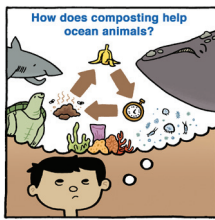
Visitor Side

Doing the Activity

1. Start with the four *Preview* panels. You may have the visitor arrange them in order, or you may shuffle them into order. Use them to a) demonstrate how to interact with the panels, and b) explain the connection between CO₂ and climate change. Once the panels are in place, read the text aloud.



2. Ask visitors to select one *Question* panel.



- Challenge the visitor to find the *Story* panels that will complete the connection between the *Question* panel and the *Organism* panel. If they get stuck, point out a) that the text gives a clue, or b) that the stories are color-coded.



- Once the visitor has completed a story, they may select an *Organism* panel to complete the story. (Any *Organism* panel can complete any story.)
- Ask if they have any questions, or whether there are any 'eco-friendly' behaviors that they do that weren't mentioned in the stories. Can they make a connection to CO₂ and climate change?
- If visitors are interested in more information about the connection between a particular organism and climate change, you may use the *Why* cards to help explain.

Things to Think About – And Incorporate in Your Messaging/Facilitation

Aren't there other impacts from these behaviors?

Absolutely! For the purposes of this activity, we chose to focus on the effects on CO₂ production. However, you can make connections to plastics in the ocean (reusables), surface runoff (composting), air quality (public transportation) or any number of other topics.

What about recycling?

While recycling is important, we want to get the conversation past that and on to other actions. There is a reason that 'Recycle' is last in the sequence 'Reduce-Reuse-Recycle.'

I can't do some of these behaviors (there's no train in my town, I'm not allowed to have a compost bin, etc.)!

As citizens, we can work with our elected officials and local businesses to make eco-friendly behaviors easier and more accessible. If we want real answers to the challenges we face, municipal-level changes will be necessary.

A Note on Materials

The material used for these panels is called Digital High Pressure Laminate (dHPL), produced by Fossil Graphics. In comparison with other durable exhibit materials, Fossil's dHPL uses no urea-formaldehyde or high-VOC adhesives. The core is chlorine-free recycled paper printed with water-based inks. It is both LEED and GREENGUARD certified for low emissions and production waste.