



Hi, I am Dr. Monta Ray, the official mascot of the 1OCEAN (Ocean Conservation Education and Action Network) and I am back again. I'm thrilled to share the incredible journey our teachers embarked on following our workshop in early July, mentioned in the Zoo's Print article **"1OCEAN Making Waves in Ramanathapuram, Rameswaram"**. Armed with the insights and strategies from "Seaside Classrooms," they've woven the beauty and critical importance of ocean conservation into their lessons across various subjects.

However, their dedication didn't stop at the classroom doors; they went further, creating engaging exhibits for a school-wide exhibition. The "Reverse the Red" Exhibition in Rameswaram was a testament to their hard work and our collective mission at 1OCEAN. The Zooreach team's visit in late August to conduct outreach programs

1OCEAN "Reverse the Red" Exhibition in Ramanathapuram, Rameswaram

added another layer of engagement in addition to the school-wide exhibition. It helped to deepen the impact of our efforts. Witnessing our educators' and students' creativity and passion in bringing ocean literacy to life has been profoundly inspiring. This article highlights a few exhibits representing the efforts and the impacts of the "Reverse the Red" Exhibition.

Panchayat Union Primary School (PUPS) Mandapam

I am delighted to share the remarkable outcomes of the engagement between PUPS Mandapam students and their dedicated teachers, K. Sivakumar and M. Syed Sharifa, in our broader efforts towards ocean literacy. These educators and students have indeed embodied the spirit of innovation and creativity in their contributions to the "Reverse the Red" Exhibition held in Rameswaram.

The students put together captivating exhibits, including a puppet show with a song that beautifully narrated the different layers of the ocean, bringing to light the rich biodiversity beneath the surface. Their ability to weave educational content with entertainment was truly commendable. To innovate and educate simultaneously, they designed a new game involving magnets to simulate fishing scenarios along the coastline. This interactive game effectively communicated the importance of



PUPS Mandapam different habitats exhibit.

Zooreach activities

sustainable fishing practices and the necessity of returning unintended catches to their natural habitats, thus fostering a sense of responsibility and awareness among participants. Furthermore, the students utilized lights to illustrate the various habitats within the ocean, creating a visually stunning exhibit that underscored the diversity and complexity of marine ecosystems. The creativity, passion, and dedication demonstrated by the PUPS Mandapam students and teachers have been profoundly inspiring. It was heartening to witness such enthusiasm and commitment.

Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Vaniyankulam

I am thrilled to recount the engaging session held at GHS Vaniyankulam, where, under the guidance of M. Balamurugan, students enthusiastically participated in the “Know My Species” card game. The game’s structure, alternating between a “guesser” and a “describer,” challenged the students to rely on their listening skills and knowledge of species. The excitement was palpable as each correct guess allowed the guesser to keep the card,



PUPS Mandapam puppet show to showcase the different layers of the ocean.



GHSS Vaniyankulam Exhibition.

and the ultimate goal of accumulating the most cards added a competitive edge.

Panchayat Union Primary School (PUPS), Panaikulam

Out of the many exhibits that the school did under the guidance of their teacher, N. Raja, one that stood out was the visualization of the stripes, which tell stories

using ice cream sticks. This project created a compelling visual representation of India’s surface temperatures over 61 years, from 1961 to 2022. Each stripe colorfully marked a year, with blue indicating cooler temperatures and red representing warmer years, against a baseline from the 1960s to the 1980s. The intensity of each stripe’s color

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PUPS Panaikulam stripes tell stories too exhibit.

vividly captured the temperature fluctuations, offering a captivating 'rainbow' that chronicles the evolution of our planet's climate. This exhibit served as a powerful visual narrative on the urgent issue of climate change.

Vallal Pari Middle School

I was honestly overjoyed to see the dedication and creativity of the students as they crafted models of sea turtles and orcas using biodegradable materials. It took them many weeks, but the results were heartwarming. Imagine my delight when I discovered they had even created a model of me, a manta ray! In addition to these models, the students showcased their extensive work with the education packets they were given. They meticulously recorded marine species found in their local area, complete with photographic evidence. Their presentations also included



Vallalpari exhibits done by students.

the different life histories of various animals, creatively displayed as if taking a ride on a Ferris wheel. The guidance of their teacher, D. Meena, was instrumental in bringing these projects to life.

Government High Secondary School (GHSS), Thinaikulam

Students in this school, under the guidance of R. Manimozhi, showcased a deep understanding of the different layers of the ocean in the exhibition. They showcased a dynamic model of the ocean's layers by combining water, dish soap, and ink in a clear tray placed over an ocean zone chart. Using a clear cup as a magnifying glass, they explored the positioning of various marine animals and plants, comparing their observations to their prior knowledge.



GHSS Tinaikulam students displaying explore the ocean game.

Panchayat Union Primary School (PUPS), Koraiyur

The primary students, under the inspiring guidance of teacher Nesamalar Sumathi, presented a play on plastic pollution. It was truly heartwarming to see these young students dressed as fishermen and marine life, bringing to life the severe issue of ocean pollution through their performance. The involvement of their parents, who attended the play and later interacted with our experts, added a wonderful

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PUPS Koraiyur play to showcase ocean pollution.

sense of community and shared purpose. The teachers of this school's dedication to engage and educate through music and play the next generation creatively is commendable.

Panchayat Union Primary School (PUPS), Gendhamathanaparvatham

The primary school students of R. Navaneethapriya from Panchayat Union Primary School, Gendhamathanaparvatham, prepared the "We Are All in the Same Boat" activity for the exhibition. This engaging and educational game not only illustrated the myriad threats faced by our ocean. The creativity and enthusiasm displayed by the



Student from PUPS Gendamanparvatham explaining the details filled by her in the education booklet given to them.

teacher by bringing real fishing nets to capture the animals made this game enjoyable.

To conclude, through the dedicated efforts of students and teachers in Rameswaram, the "Reverse the Red" Exhibition has illuminated the path for ocean conservation education. Recognizing the intricate value of each species within an ecosystem is paramount to its conservation. Without a deep appreciation for the roles and relationships within ecosystems, efforts to conserve would be directionless. The work done by the students and teachers serves as a beacon of hope. As we move forward, let's commit to deepening our knowledge, for only through understanding can we truly protect and preserve the natural world. We hope to cover more programs like this soon.



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