



Classroom Activity: Understanding Overfishing and Endangered Species

Introduction to Overfishing (10 minutes)

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Overfishing is a significant threat to marine ecosystems, as it leads to the overexploitation of fish resources and can cause the extinction of fish species and other marine organisms. This educational unit aims to introduce 14-year-old students to the concept of overfishing and its impacts on marine ecosystems.

1. What is overfishing and what are its impacts on marine ecosystems?

2. Why is overfishing a significant threat to marine ecosystems?

Causes and Effects of Overfishing (20 minutes)

Discuss the following questions in groups:

1. What are the causes of overfishing and how does it affect the economy and society?

2. What are the potential solutions to address the problem of overfishing?

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Group Task:

Brainstorm and list the possible causes and effects of overfishing.

Causes	Effects

Endangered Species (20 minutes)

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Several fish species and other marine organisms are threatened by overfishing in the Mediterranean. The main causes of this threat are overfishing, pollution, and habitat destruction.

1. What are some examples of endangered species in the Mediterranean?

2. What are the main causes of the threat to these species?

Group Task:

Research and list the endangered species in the Mediterranean and their main threats.

Species	Main Threats

Sustainable Fishing Practices (25 minutes)

Discuss the following questions in groups:

1. What are some sustainable fishing practices that can help reduce overfishing?

2. How can consumers contribute to sustainable fishing practices?

Group Task:

Brainstorm and list the possible sustainable fishing practices and ways consumers can contribute.

Sustainable Practices	Consumer Contributions
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Role-Play Activity (25 minutes)

Divide into groups and assign each group a role (fishermen, scientists, government officials, consumers). Discuss and come up with solutions to address the problem of overfishing.

Group Task:

Discuss and list the possible solutions to address the problem of overfishing from your assigned role's perspective.

Role	Solutions

Conclusion and Reflection (10 minutes)

Individual Reflection:

1. What did you learn about overfishing and its impacts on marine ecosystems?

2. How can you contribute to sustainable fishing practices?

Assessment (20 minutes)

Answer the following questions:

1. What is overfishing and what are its impacts on marine ecosystems?

2. What are some sustainable fishing practices that can help reduce overfishing?

3. How can consumers contribute to sustainable fishing practices?

Teacher Notes and Guidance

Provide guidance and support to students during the activities. Encourage discussion and critical thinking.

Assessment criteria:

1. Participation in class discussions and activities
2. Quality of written work and presentations
3. Demonstrated understanding of overfishing and its impacts on marine ecosystems

