

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Thijs Bosker
Title of clinic:	Lesson plant for primary and/or high school students on plastic pollution
Number of students:	2-6
Major (<i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i>):	Any major, preferably students with an affinity for arts, the environment, children and/or science communication
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	None, but speaking another language would be great (big need for Chinese, Hindi, Tamil, Malay, French, Spanish, Swahili or Filipino, or any other major language).

Research context

How can we get children to change their behavior, and reduce plastic pollution? Can education kids actually be a way to reduce plastic pollution in communities? How to reach schools and students in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia or the Philippines, as these are major contributors plastic pollution? And what are effective ways to get students excited to make a change in their communities?

These are some of the questions I want to address together with a group of motivated students. As most of you know plastic pollution is an issue of global concern. On an annual basis over 8 billion kg of plastic enter our oceans. In addition, microplastics (pieces of plastic <5mm) are omnipresent in the environment. It is especially important to educate children on this topic: How children and young people are parented, educated, socialized, and supported by various institutions and services has major repercussions for their development into adulthood and their behavior as adults. Therefore, educating and empowering young people in their formative years is an effective way to attain positive behavioral change, which will have the potential to change the future of their and our communities for the better. For this reason I want to develop lesson plans on plastic pollution.

Students' tasks and activities

The final deliverable are lesson plans on plastic pollution for schools (in as many language as possible), but the content will be dependent on you and the team we work in. Will it be an online app? Will it be instructions for an art project? We will make videos? Will we make students go out and collect plastics in their community for a citizen science project? Will we make them do an outreach project?

In the end the lesson plan needs to provide materials for both teachers and students. The need to motivate participants, they need to be fun, but they also need to get them thinking about their community and themselves.

I am looking forward to your ideas and creativity on these topics

