

# Waste and Waterways Lesson



years  
11 and 12

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM LINKS

### Year 11 and 12 Geography Sustainable Places (Unit 2)

*This lesson sequence explores:*

- Manila as a megacity in a developing country and the challenge that it faces in the form of environmental degradation caused by waste in waterways (ACHGE050 and ACHGE053)
- The strategies used to address this challenge in one Australian place (ACHGE047)

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Outline the nature, scope and causes of environmental degradation caused by marine waste in a developing world megacity
- Describe and evaluate the strategies used to address this challenge
- Propose a strategy to reduce marine waste in an Australian place

**TIME REQUIRED:** The time required for this lesson sequence varies according to whether some tasks are completed by students in class or at home.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

*Tip: Teachers do not have to follow the entire sequence of tasks.*

*Activities can be omitted or modified according to the needs of the teacher and students.*

1

**Teacher-led discussion:** The teacher introduces Manila as a developing world megacity and its marine waste problem caused by over-reliance on single-use sachets. The following news clip by CGTN can be used: (2:40 minutes)

[https://news.cgtn.com/news/35597a4e7a494464776c6d636a4e6e62684a4856/share\\_p.html](https://news.cgtn.com/news/35597a4e7a494464776c6d636a4e6e62684a4856/share_p.html)

2

**Student task:** Students investigate the issue of marine waste caused by the use of sachets in Manila. Students start by reading the article 'Slave to sachets: How poverty worsens the plastics crisis in the Philippines' (03/09/2019 Reuters) to gain an understanding of the issue. This can be found at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-asia-waste-philippines/slave-to-sachets-how-poverty-worsens-the-plastics-crisis-in-the-philippines-idUSKCN1VOOG3>

Students then conduct internet research to answer the following questions:

- Outline the nature and extent of the challenges caused by the use of sachets in Manila.
- Describe the factors contributing to the extensive marine waste problem in Manila (Teacher's tip: these may include poverty, consumer demand, low cost of production, corporation profit motive, lack of legislation, poor enforcement of laws).
- What are the social and environmental impacts of the marine waste caused by sachet use in Manila?
- Explain why responses to marine waste used in developed world megacities may not be effective in Manila. (Teacher's tip: reasons may include poor infrastructure, poverty, lack of political will, cultural resistance, poor enforcement of laws)

- e) How are multinational corporations such as Unilever and Nestle responding to marine waste in Manila? As part of your response, suggest reasons why businesses would voluntarily undertake such measures.
- f) Describe the strategies adopted by the government and non-government organisations to address marine waste in Manila and discuss the extent to which these strategies have enhanced sustainability.
- g) All Australian states have now banned the use of single use plastic bags (including NSW which announced its plan in March 2020). To what extent would this strategy be effective in Manila to address marine waste?

3

**Student task:** The NSW Government has now joined all other Australian states in banning single use plastic bags to reduce land and marine pollution. Students are to propose a similar prohibition that could be applied to their school (eg banning plastic cutlery or single use takeaway containers at the canteen) then create a petition that describes and justifies the proposed ban. Students should consider factors such as feasibility, cost, impact on sustainability and enforcement.

**Suggestion:** *The petition for the most feasible proposal can be posted on the Eco-Schools Noticeboard for signing by staff and students.*



Keep   
Australia  
Beautiful