

NATURAL RESOURCES

Activity NR09

Theme

Physical Activity (PA) for the sports hall.
A game where students pretend to be fish trying to get across the hall past the people trying to catch them.

Objectives

Visualising the idea of overfishing and depletion of resources.

Curriculum Strands

SESE, Science and Geography–
Environmental awareness and care

Physical Education–Games; Sending, receiving and travelling; Understanding and appreciation of games

SPHE–Myself and the wider world;
Environmental care

Skills

Running, dodging, throwing, observing, communicating, hypothesising

Time

30 minutes

Fishy business!

→ OVEREXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WHAT YOU NEED

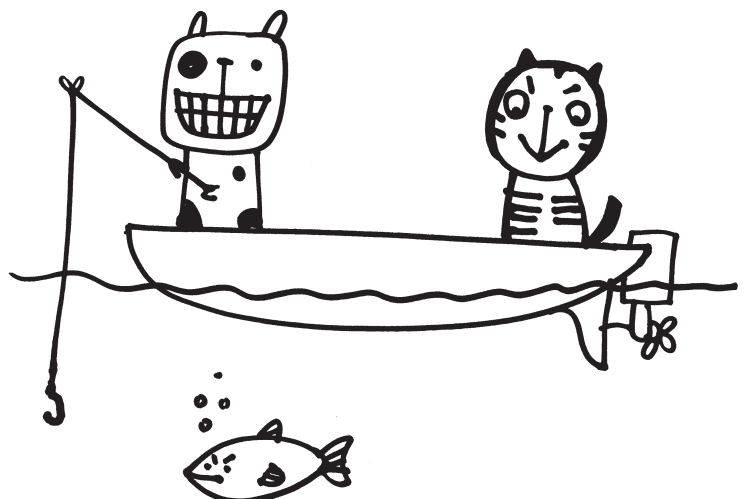
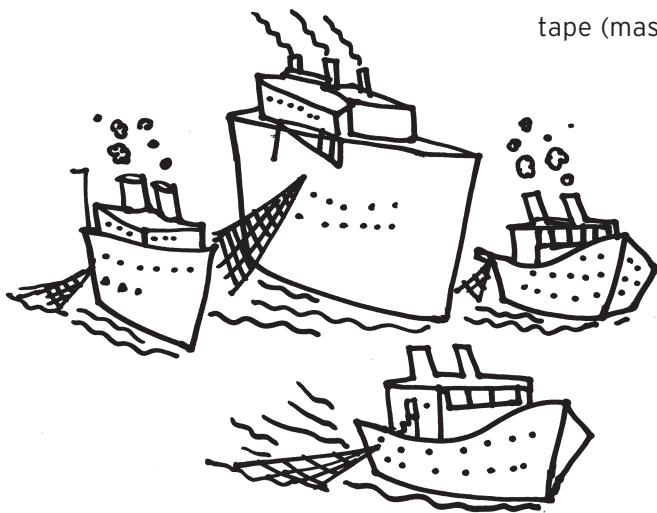
- Five or six old newspapers
- Tape

WHAT TO DO**1 In the classroom**

Ask the students to take one double sheet of newspaper each and roll it into a soft ball. Secure the ball with a little tape (masking tape is good).

2 In the hall

Ask six students (or fewer if your class is quite small) to take their paper balls and stand three on each side of the hall. Ask the rest of the students to put down their own balls and go to the end of the hall. Explain that they are a large shoal of fish swimming to their breeding grounds. The students with paper balls are fishers trying to catch them.



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Continued →

3 The task of the fish is to dodge up the hall to the 'breeding grounds' at the other end of the hall while the fishers try to 'catch' them by throwing their paper balls. Each fisher is allowed only one throw, but if a fish is hit she or he must go and stand behind that fisher. The next time the fish pass by the captured students have become fishers too, and gradually more and more paper balls will be thrown at fewer and fewer fish.

4 The teacher may put a time limit on the game to see how many fish are left, or could stop when the fish numbers are reduced to, say, a quarter. At the end of the game ask the fish what will happen if they go on getting caught before they reach the breeding grounds.

Questions

- 1** As more and better-equipped fishing boats set off to sea, fewer and fewer fish are left to catch. What will happen if fish can't breed fast enough before we catch them?
- 2** What do we do with all the fish we catch?

Go further

All the students are fish. The teacher places a hula hoop or loop of rope in the centre of the hall. This is the 'breeding ground'. All the students run around until the teacher blows a whistle. The students then have five/ten seconds to get to the hoop. Anyone in the hoop or touching someone in the hoop is safe. Everyone tries to help everyone else. The game is played like this three or four times and then the teacher starts to drop the hoop at random in different parts of the room so that the 'fish' find it harder and harder to find the 'breeding ground'.

Questions

Are you tired? Why? Might fish get tired? Would they swim far? What might happen to change the location of a breeding ground? What if it went away altogether? How do fish breed? How do they live? What kills them?