Through the lessons in the Integrated Art Marine Debris Curriculum (IAMDC), Washed Ashore students learned about plastics, pollution, and using art as a language.

During this curriculum extension, students will continue to build on those lessons by getting involved in their own community and using art to create local change. The goal of the three lessons in this curriculum extension are to help students work through the process of creating their own individual mask and crafting a message to present to a local organization. In order to complete this curriculum extension, there are both pre and post lesson activities. While those activities themselves are not written as lessons, they are essential to enable students to receive the most benefit from this extension.

Outline:

The following is a simple outline of this extension (times in parenthesis assume all activities are done in class; class time can be reduced if more projects are assigned as homework):

I. Host a Cleanup (Half to Full Day Field Trip)
II. Prepare Your Art Supplies and Compile Your Data (Two - Five Class Periods)
III. Lesson 1: Let's Face It (Two - Three Class Periods)
IV. Lesson 2: What Can I Say? (One - Three Class Periods)
V. Lesson 3: Crafting the Message (One - Three Class Periods)
VI. Presentation and Class Discussion (One - Three Class Periods)

Total minimum time needed: At least half a day for the class cleanup and seven class periods for preparation, lessons, and presentations.
Pre-Lesson Activities:

Before working through this extension, students should complete the 12 Lesson IAMDC Unit. In those lessons, students look at the big picture of modern materials and how they affect the world and our oceans. In this extension, students will zoom in to their local environments. Without the context of the larger picture, this extension will not carry the full impact.

In the IAMDC, students also become familiar with the design elements and principles of visual art. This extension relies heavily upon student’s familiarity with those concepts. In the IAMDC, two large masks are created to serve as community art pieces that help to create habit change. This extension focuses on creating individual masks in order to help students see themselves as part of this issue.

Host a Cleanup:

Host a cleanup following the instructions in chapter four of the “Talking Trash and Taking Action” curriculum from Ocean Conservancy and NOAA with one notable exception: Instead of throwing away or recycling the trash from this cleanup, use it to create art supplies in order to highlight the items found and try to create solutions.


There are also many great lessons in the “Talking Trash” curriculum that can serve as follow-up or extension activities for the IAMDC. For the cleanup, we are going to be using the data sheet from that curriculum:


After the cleanup, compile the results from the data collected on a new data sheet so that class totals can be viewed easily. Then, create your own top 10 items table from your cleanup data.

Turning Trash into Art Supplies:

Use the Washed Ashore PowerPoint included in this curriculum extension to transform your trash into usable items. This may take a few class periods, so allow time before you plan to start lesson one.