

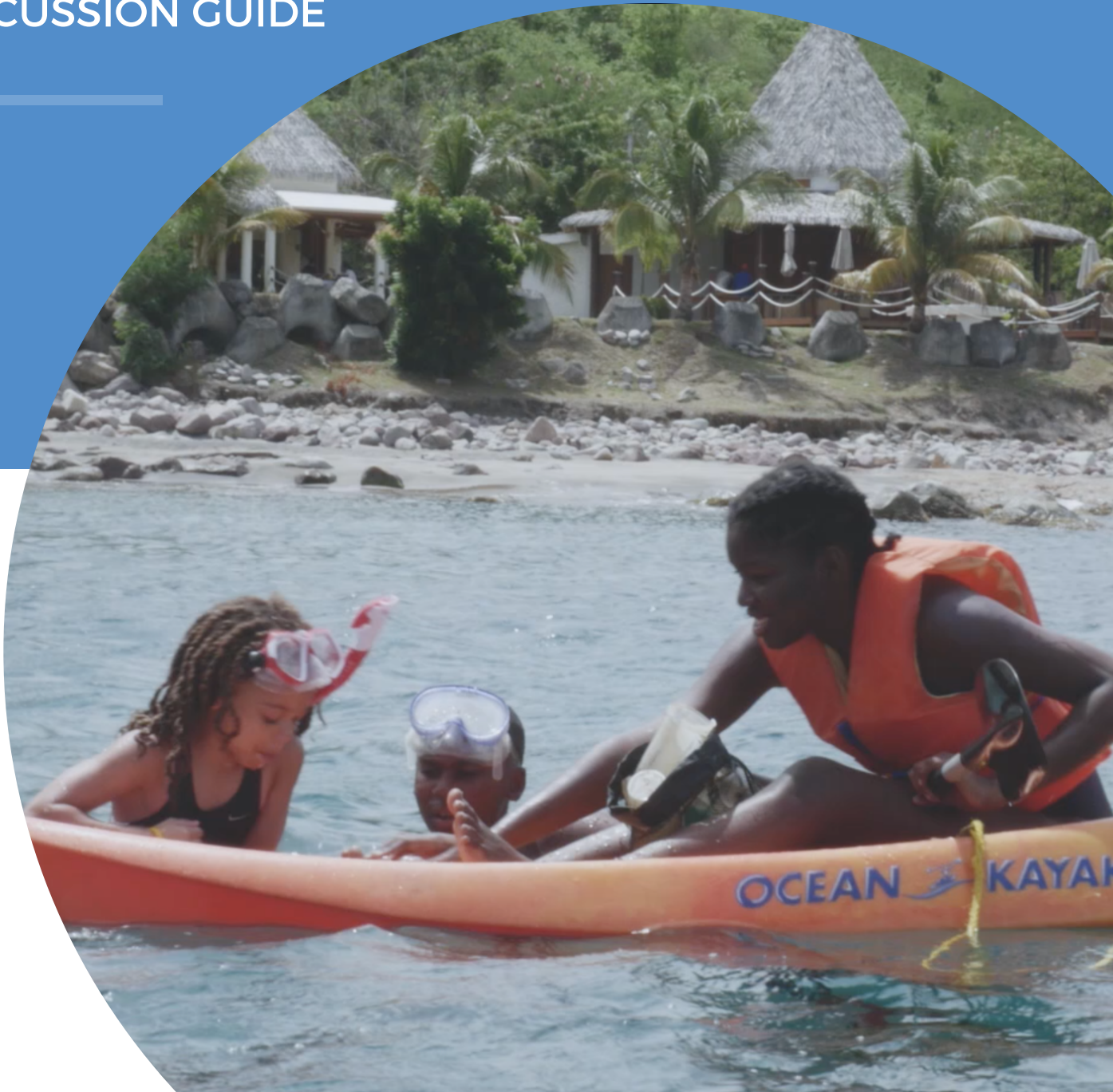


students  
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# OCEAN CHALLENGE VETA'S STORY

MONTSERRAT, WEST INDIES

2018-2019 MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL  
DISCUSSION GUIDE



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# OCEAN CHALLENGE

## EDUCATOR NOTE:

Below is an introduction to *Veta's Story*, as well as discussion questions and activities to use with your class. You may utilize all or some of the provided questions as you guide your class in discussion.

Video Length: 4 minutes

Estimated Time to Complete: 1-5 Class Periods

## OVERVIEW

The ocean connects us all. As noted marine biologist Sylvia Earle said, "With every drop of water you drink, every breath you take, you're connected to the sea." The ocean covers more than 70 percent of the surface of our planet and is home to 97 percent of the world's water.

No matter where you live, whether on a remote island or in a landlocked area far from the beach, the ocean affects you, and you you affect the ocean. It's up to all of us to protect the ocean against the threats it faces. We can make a difference by taking action locally and joining forces globally.

## GLOBAL NOMADS GROUP

Global Nomads Group (GNG) is an international non-profit organization that fosters dialogue and understanding among the world's youth. Since its founding in 1998, GNG has conducted programs in 60 countries on all seven continents, reaching one million young people. By providing opportunities to interact and engage with different perspectives, GNG helps youth break down stereotypes, address community challenges, develop 21st century skills, and explore what it means to be a global citizen.

Since 2010, GNG and Students Rebuild have partnered on each annual Challenge, bringing awareness to critical global issues and youth stories of taking action.

## STUDENTS REBUILD

Students Rebuild, a program of the Bezos Family Foundation, is a free, ready-made adventure in global learning that asks students to put their creativity and compassion to work in support of other young people in need.

Students Rebuild issues an annual Challenge that invites students to respond to global problems affecting young people somewhere in the world. Teachers and students explore the issue in class and, in the process, connect with students around the globe. Then students create art based on what they learn and send it to Students Rebuild. For every piece of artwork they submit, the Bezos Family Foundation makes a financial donation to a respected community-based organization serving youth.



# VETA'S STORY

## GETTING STARTED

We recommend that ahead of showing the video to your students you (a) pre-watch the video or read the transcript below, noting any vocabulary or concepts that may be unfamiliar to your students and (b) review the unfamiliar words with your students before showing the video.



Veta's Story  
4 minutes

## FRAMING

Montserrat, a small island in the West Indies of the Caribbean, is known for its beautiful water, marine life, and coral reefs. Due to rapidly rising temperatures and increasing amounts of plastic, Montserrat's marine life and coral reef are threatened. Coral reef structures are home to many species of fish, animals, and plants, all of which play a vital role in the ocean's ecosystem and the environment. For islands like Montserrat, the ocean is a daily part of life and healthy coral serve to protect homes and businesses from harsh weather conditions, like storms and floods. Because of the ocean's close proximity, local island residents must be equipped with awareness and tools to participate actively in protecting their own backyard.

In *Veta's Story*, we learn about Fish 'N Fins, an organization created by native Montserratian, Veta Wade. Fish 'N Fins teaches local children how to swim and snorkel, and about ocean conservation. We follow Veta as she explains the importance of working with young people to appreciate and protect the ocean that surrounds the island.

Veta and her community's commitment to protecting the ocean provide inspiration for students as they work to answer the following question: **What is one thing YOU will do for the ocean?**

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Please Note:** You may utilize all or some of the provided questions as you guide your class in discussion. Additionally, you may use the questions as a jumping off point for the enhancement activities, found beneath their corresponding questions and in more detail on page 5.

1. Veta lives on Montserrat, a tiny island in the Caribbean. In what ways might life on this island revolve around the ocean?
2. If you live near the ocean, imagine life in a landlocked area; if you live far from the coast, imagine life closer to the ocean. What would change about your reality, your daily habits, and what is or is not available to you? How might this relocation alter your perspective on the importance of ocean health?
3. When talking about rising water temperatures, Veta says, “the coral reefs must be really feeling it!” What causes the warmer temperatures in the ocean, and why is this detrimental to coral reefs?

## ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

### Footprint Calculator

4. There are many reasons people living on an island might have an uneasy or negative relationship with the ocean, which could in turn discourage their interest in advocating for ocean protection.

What is the value of Veta’s work through Fish ’N Fins? How do her efforts benefit Montserrat? How do her efforts benefit the world?

5. How long does it take for a plastic straw to decompose? Why is it important to know how long it takes for the products we use to decompose? What does it mean for the environment when products do not decompose?
6. The children of Fish ’N Fins say they would advise their community to stop littering. What leads a person to litter? What are ways your community can reduce waste and litter? Do you think there should be consequences for littering? If yes, what should they be? If no, then why not?
7. For the people of Montserrat, the Caribbean Sea is essentially their backyard. But in seeing the ocean daily, it’s easy to forget how special and even vulnerable the ocean is.

What happens when we become accustomed to our immediate surroundings and overlook the urgency in taking local action? What are the larger implications when people do not take care of their own backyards?

8. How often do you think about the effect your daily habits have on the environment? What does it mean to be a conscious consumer? How might you expand your awareness to make better choices and encourage others to change their behaviors?

## ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

### Take a Pledge

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

9. Whose responsibility is it to prevent trash from making its way to the ocean?  
Should we pick up litter when we see it, even if it is not ours?  
What do you predict the effect of communal accountability for picking up litter might be?

10. Veta mentions that some of her students want to become marine biologists. What are some other environmental careers?

How might non-environmentally focused career paths, like an artist, mechanic, doctor, plumber, electrician, nurse, lawyer, social worker, bank teller, teacher, or receptionist, serve to protect the environment?

## ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

### Go Deeper

11. Veta explains that “people protect what they love; they defend what they love; they look after what they love.”

What does she mean by this? Why is this an important message for inspiring activism? What, alternatively, might prevent people from protecting what they love?

12. Veta emphasizes that the next generation has the ability to reverse the threats facing our ocean, as long as they have exposure to the issues.

How might you inspire a love for the ocean in younger students so that they are motivated to take action to protect our ocean? What are the challenges of engaging young people so that they feel enough of a personal investment to change their actions?

## ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

### Ocean Awareness Day

13. Veta says, “I see the fight back, I see the ocean trying to, you know, rejuvenate itself. And if it’s fighting for its own survival, we should fight with it.”

In what ways might the ocean and marine life fight for their own survival?

What are the dangers we face as humans if the fight for the ocean is lost? What is affected, limited, or destroyed?

“The one thing that I will commit to doing to help our ocean is to engage our community and our young people in being part of the solution to protecting and preserving it.” - Veta  
What is one thing YOU will do for the ocean?

# ACTIVITY RESOURCES

Below are optional activities that provide deeper engagement to support the video and discussion questions.

## FOOTPRINT CALCULATOR

Students will use a [footprint calculator](#) to determine their carbon footprint and learn steps they can take to reduce their environmental impact on a day-to-day basis. As a class, discuss how their daily actions contribute to climate change and positively or negatively affect the environment and ocean health.

## GO DEEPER

Students will explore two current ocean conservation projects that have created unique careers for those involved:

[BVI Art Reef](#) and [The Ocean Cleanup](#).

Then, students will research additional projects designed to reverse human impact and protect the environment that connect to their future career goals. Students should be able to explain what professional role they might play in the project.

## OCEAN AWARENESS DAY

Students will use the information they have learned to create an interactive “Ocean Awareness Day” for other students at their school, spreading awareness for coral reef and ocean conservation. This day could be part of a larger educational campaign that spreads awareness throughout the school or community. For Activity Inspiration: [worldoceansday.org](http://worldoceansday.org)

## TAKE A PLEDGE

Students will commit to actions that protect the ocean by drafting and signing an “I Pledge” contract that outlines their commitments. Ideas for commitments include: switch to a non-plastic, environmentally-friendly alternative from plastic sandwich bags, organize a plastic-waste-free week at school, or participate in a cleanup event near your community. Students can complete this activity as individuals or as a whole class.

# VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

## VETA'S STORY

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Time	Speaker	Dialogue
0:00:14	Veta	My name is Veta Wade, and I'm the founder of Fish 'N Fins.
0:00:18		We live on a tiny island; our whole life revolves around the ocean. Our livelihood is dependent on the ocean. We are so spoiled, everything is so pure, it's beautiful. Our coral reefs – you can feel the rising temperatures of the water. You know, sometimes you're swimming in the sea, and you feel that it's like a hot water pond. And I think to myself, 'Oh, this feels nice!' but then the next moment I think, 'God, the coral reefs must be really feeling it.'
0:00:59		So the children of Fish 'N Fins they learn to swim, they're building water confidence, they're learning essential skills, and then we also engage them in regards to the conservation. I already hear them saying to me, 'I'm thinking now to be a marine biologist' – at 11 years old, you know, and that's where it starts. It's that connection. And so they see that link. To be able to want to preserve a coral reef, to be able to want to ensure that turtles are preserved.
0:01:30	Student	"In 3 months, we collected 7 straws which takes 200 years to decompose, 1 pipe cleaner..."
0:01:39	Veta to Students	"So what would you say to the people of Montserrat – to everybody at home – about marine debris?"
0:01:44	Students	"Make sure you dispose of your garbage properly." "-and try not to use so much plastic." "Do not encourage marine debris." "Don't encourage litter." "Yeah."
0:01:52	Veta	People protect what they love, they defend what they love, they look after what they love. And this is the reason why I'm trying to spark love in young people and children from so early is because once they get that, that's an attachment for life. And as a result of that, they're going to protect, they're going to preserve, they're going to defend the ocean.

# VIDEO TRANSCRIPT (CONTINUED)

## VETA'S STORY

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Time	Speaker	Dialogue
0:02:16	Osiris	“My name is Osiris. I’ve gone to Fish ’N Fins for about 3 years now. I like fishing and looking for different things in the ocean. So we go out snorkeling to look at fish and stuff, and if we see garbage – we carry like bags to put garbage in. Because if you leave it there, fish will eat it.”
0:02:49	Veta	We’re going to leave it with this next generation. I think they have the skills to work to reverse it, but they’re only going to do that if they have the knowledge, the exposure. They need to be immersed in it.
0:03:06	Adrice	“People litter a lot on the beach, and because of that, like the litter from the beach goes into the ocean, and that pollutes the ocean. Veta taught us like never to litter on the beach because that can affect ocean life.”
0:03:18	Sheyanne	“Veta taught me how to swim. She was a big inspiration to me. Now I want to be a marine biologist. And I want to find like ways to help the sea.”
0:03:27	Osiris	“It’s just fun being out on the water. If you don’t protect the ocean and the environment, there’ll be nothing left.”
0:03:38	Veta	I see the fight back, I see the ocean trying to, you know, rejuvenate itself. And if it’s fighting for its own survival, we should fight with it.
0:03:50		The one thing that I will commit to doing to help our oceans is to engage our community and our young people in being part of the solution to protecting and preserving it.
0:04:02		It’s not too late; we can make a difference.



## TAKE ACTION

Thank you for participating in the 2018 Students Rebuild Ocean Challenge, which invites teachers and students worldwide to help save marine life and support coastal communities.

### MAKE A SEA CREATURE

Students will make sea creatures out of paper or other recycled materials as they reflect on what they've learned and what they can do to help protect ocean health.

Each submitted piece of ocean art will generate a \$2 donation from the Bezos Family Foundation to support global conservation programs.

Register a team and submit artwork at [studentsrebuild.org/ocean](https://studentsrebuild.org/ocean)

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

As part of the Ocean Challenge, Global Nomads Group will be hosting three virtual webcast discussions (dates to be announced). The webcasts will be live-streamed conversations that explore the changing state of the ocean and feature youth involved in ocean-related programs and other Students Rebuild teams. Your class/team can submit questions and/or answers to the on-air participants through a facilitated chat room. All you need to join is an Internet connection. Register at [gng.org](https://gng.org)

Learn More about Fish 'N Fins: [aquamontserrrat.com/fish-n-fins-kids](https://aquamontserrrat.com/fish-n-fins-kids)