



Bleaching, change and hope

Lesson plan: global bleaching data, future projections, what helps reefs, and a structured debate



Ages	13 to 18 (grades 8 to 12)
Time	60 minutes
Group	Up to 36 students, in pairs
Where	Any classroom. No internet needed.
You need	The slides and one debate planner per pair

What students learn

- How bleaching events have grown in scale.
- What climate projections mean for reefs at 1.5°C and 2°C.
- Why local protection still matters, and what the evidence says works.
- How to argue both sides of a question with evidence, then reach a considered view.

Before the lesson

1. Print one **debate planner** per pair.

The lesson

- 1 **The data 12 minutes, slides 1 to 3.** Share the bleaching chart and the projections. Give students a moment to take it in.
- 2 **Hope with evidence 10 minutes, slides 4 and 5.** Explain resilience and what works, without overselling.
- 3 **Structured debate 30 minutes, slide 6.** Pairs argue both sides, then write a shared answer. Take a few answers from the class.
- 4 **Wrap up 8 minutes, slide 7.** Discuss one or two questions.

Answers and what to listen for

What to listen for: the strongest answers accept that local action cannot stop global warming, and that cutting emissions is essential. They also argue that healthy reefs recover faster, buy time and support people now. That is why scientists usually say both are needed.

Making it easier or harder

- **Younger groups:** skip the debate swap and run a class vote with reasons.
- **Older groups:** add a written conclusion that cites at least three sources from the teacher readings.

- **Action:** the Plastic pollution and Fish, fishers and no-take zones modules include local action projects.

Safety and good practice

- Some students feel anxious about climate change. End on what people are doing, and give them something concrete to do.

Curriculum links

- **Science:** climate change and ecosystems, evaluating evidence.
- **English:** argument and debate.
- **Philippine senior high school:** General Science.
- **Ocean Literacy Principle 6:** the ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.

The teacher reading has the science behind every slide, with links to the sources.

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