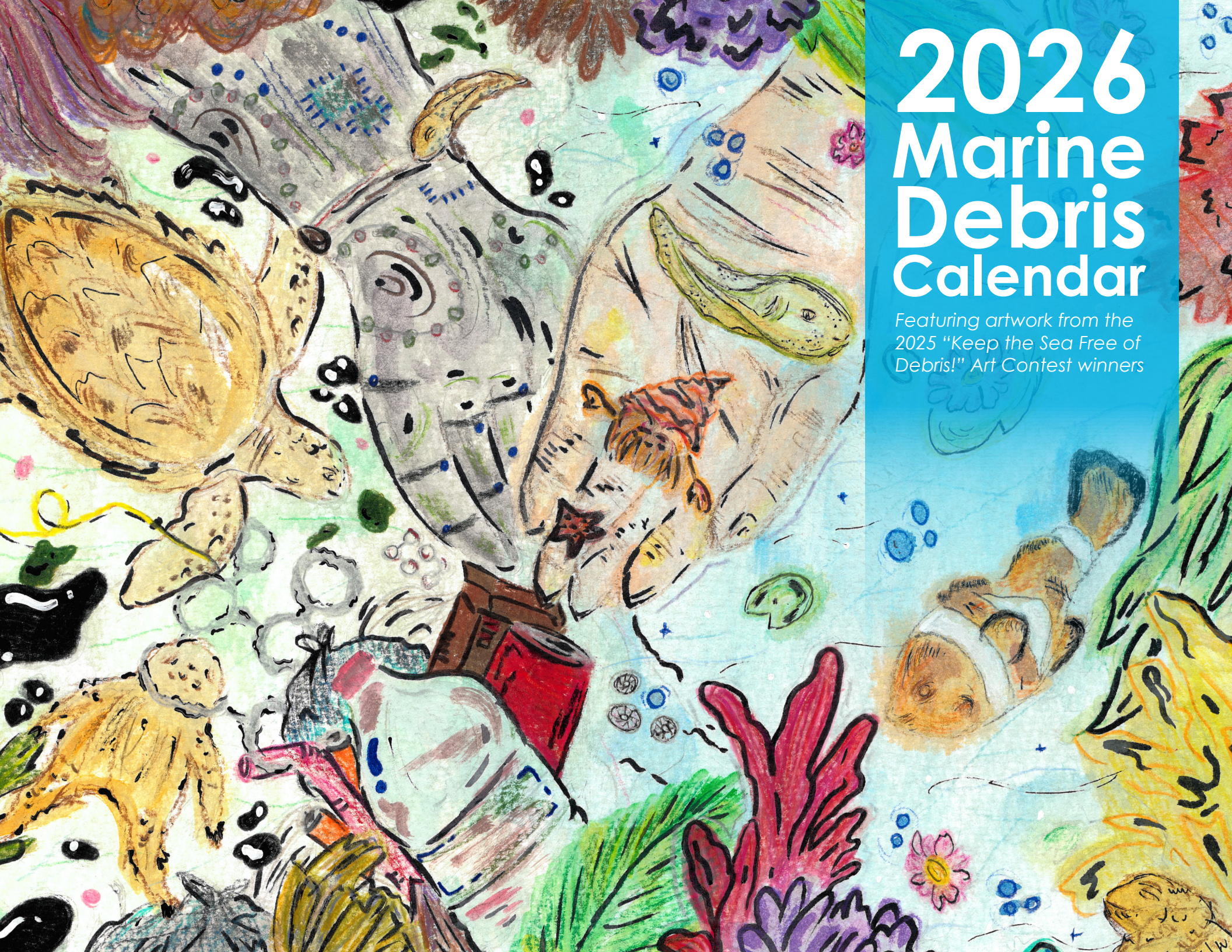




2026 Marine Debris Calendar

Featuring artwork from the
2025 "Keep the Sea Free of
Debris!" Art Contest winners

About This Calendar

This calendar features winning artwork from the 2025 “Keep the Sea Free of Debris!” Art Contest. The NOAA Marine Debris Program received hundreds of great entries from students across the United States in kindergarten through eighth grade showing the impacts of marine debris on our ocean and planet. The program evaluated submissions based on creativity, artistic presentation, relevance to theme, and how thoroughly the students answered the questions:

- *How does marine debris impact the ocean and Great Lakes environment?*
- *What will you do to help?*

Thank you to all the students (and teachers) for your participation in the 2025 art contest. Your support and enthusiasm remind us of why we do what we do every day — work to keep our ocean and Great Lakes clean. The Program hopes this calendar fuels your passion to protect our ocean and drives you to stay involved in finding solutions to prevent marine debris.

About the Art Contest

The NOAA Marine Debris Program holds an annual art contest to reach K-8 students and help raise awareness about marine debris. Marine debris is a global issue, and we believe that engaging our youth is an important part of addressing the problem. The contest opens each year in the fall, and you can find more information on our website.



NOAA Marine Debris Program

The NOAA Marine Debris Program’s mission is to investigate and prevent the adverse impacts of marine debris. The program achieves this through coordinating regional marine debris efforts, leading research, and conducting outreach to local communities.

Cover Art By:

Aaliyah R. M. (Grade 8, Puerto Rico)



“Los desechos marinos afectan nuestros océanos y Grandes Lagos al ser contaminados, lo que causa desagradables acontecimientos a largo plazo, prohibiéndonos de hermosas experiencias. Para lograr tener un cambio efectivo yo ayudaría a nuestros océanos y lagos recogiendo basura, reciclando, reduciendo, y reusando, entre otros.”

English translation: Marine debris affects our oceans and Great Lakes by polluting them, causing unpleasant long-term outcomes and depriving us of heroic experiences. To achieve effective change, I would help our oceans and lakes by collecting, recycling, reducing, and reusing, among other things.

Don't Miss A Beat. Stay Connected:



<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov>



<https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov>



@NOAADebris



@NOAADebris

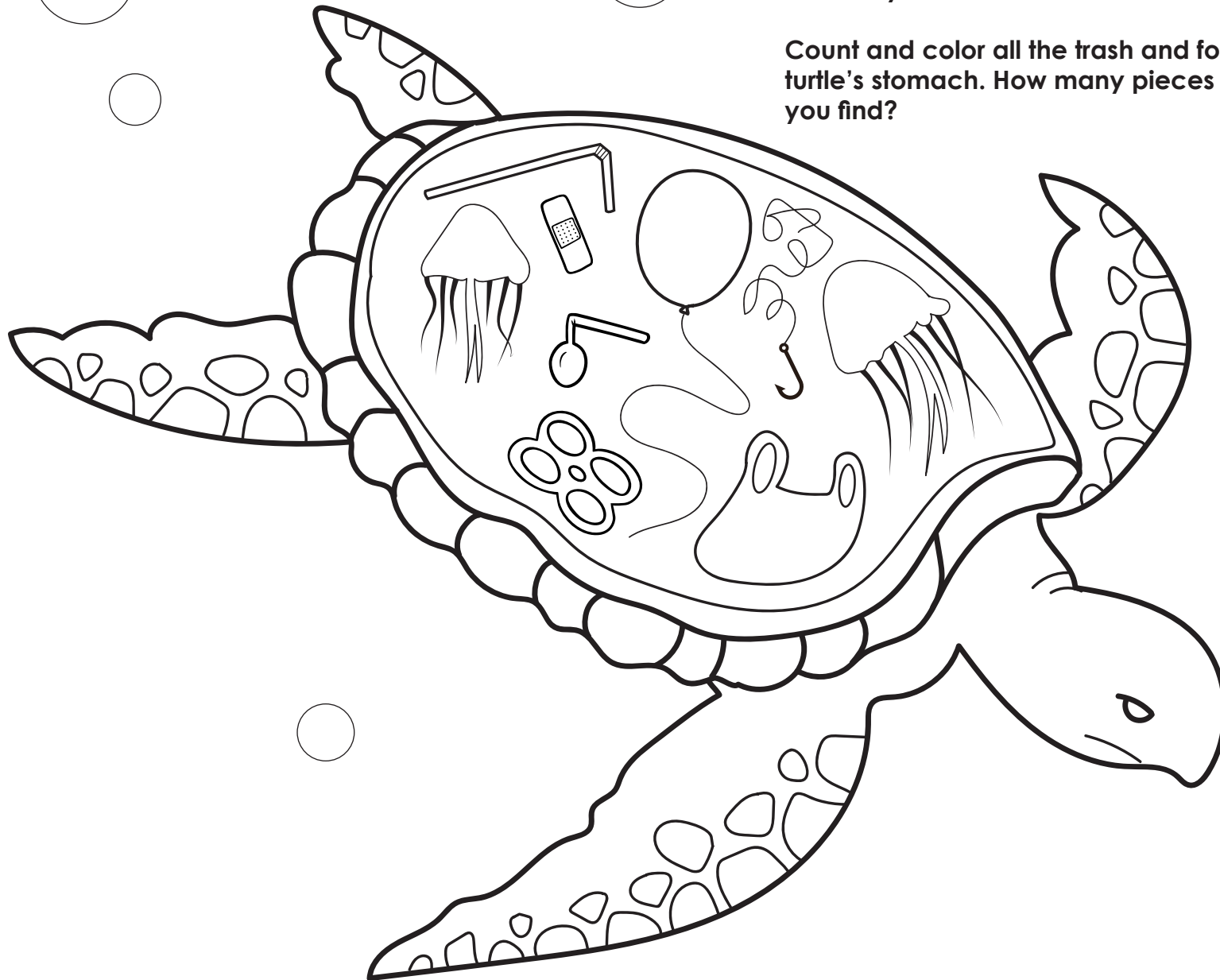


@NOAAMarineDebris

Coloring Activity

Sometimes sea turtles mistake trash in the water for food. Plastic bags and balloons can look like jellyfish, one of sea turtles' favorite snacks! When swallowed, debris can block a turtle's stomach, causing it to feel full and eat less than they need to survive.

Count and color all the trash and food in Sophie the sea turtle's stomach. How many pieces of marine debris did you find?







JANUARY 2026

DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31





MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				





MARCH 2026

FEBRUARY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

APRIL 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 Women's History Month	2	3	4 Holi	5	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Eid al-Fitr	20 Spring Equinox	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

TWO CHOICES ONE PLANET





APRIL 2026

MARCH 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MAY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1 Passover Begins April Fools' Day	2	3	4
5 Easter Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Tax Day	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		





MAY 2026

APRIL 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JUNE 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month	2
3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Memorial Day	Eid al-Adha				





JUNE 2026

MAY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JULY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

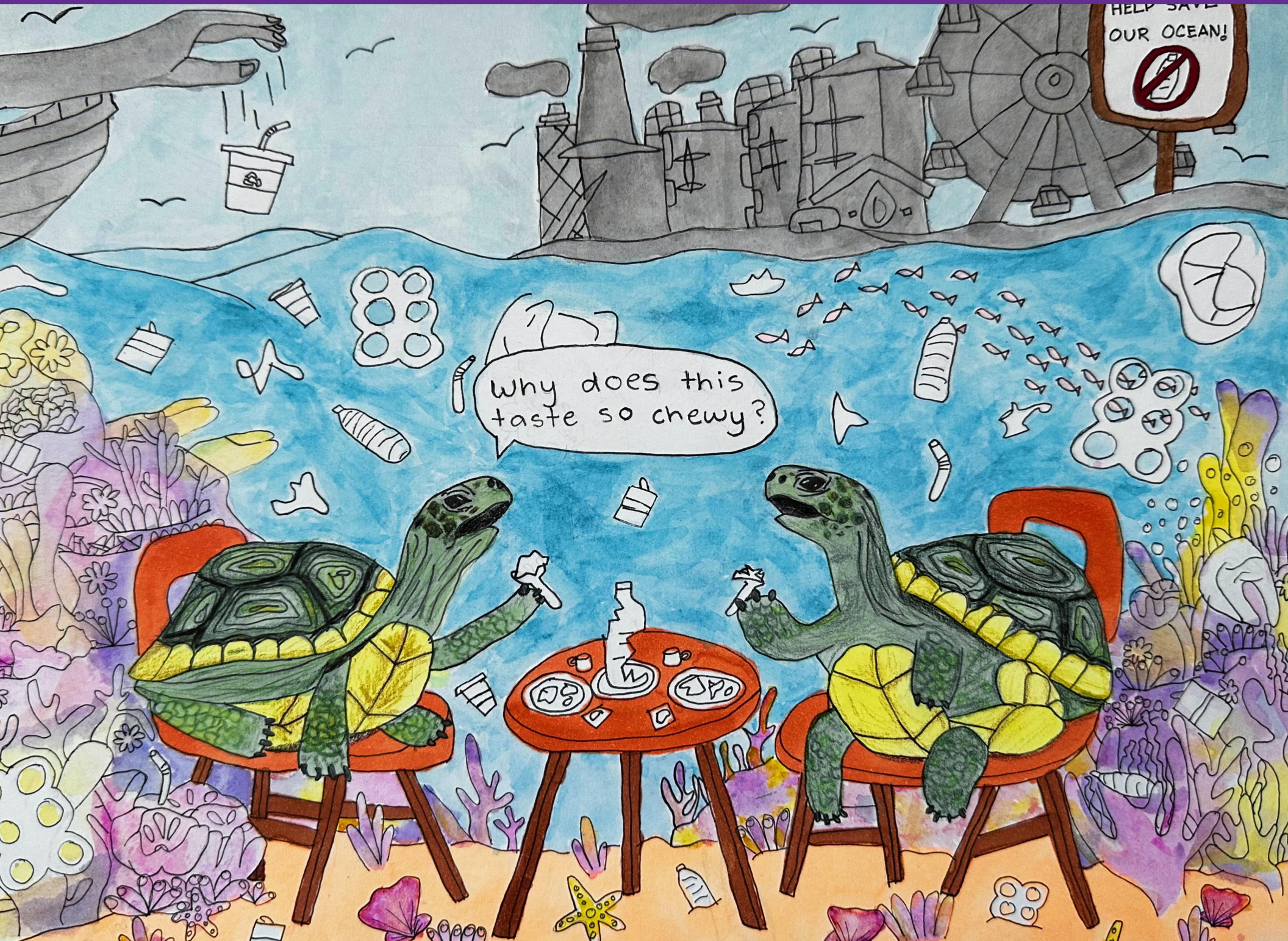
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2	3	4	5 World Environment Day	6
7	8 World Ocean Day	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Muharram Begins	18	19 Juneteenth	20 Summer Solstice
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				





JULY 2026

JUNE 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

AUGUST 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	





AUGUST 2026

JULY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SEPTEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

A small change
may not change
the **WORLD...**

...but it **CAN**
change
someone's
world





SEPTEMBER 2026

AUGUST 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

OCTOBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11 Rosh Hashanah	12
13	14	15 National Hispanic Heritage Month	16	17	18	19
20 Yom Kippur	21	22 Autumn Equinox	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			





OCTOBER 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

NOVEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Indigenous Peoples' Day Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween





NOVEMBER 2026

OCTOBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

DECEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 Daylight Savings Time Ends	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8 Diwali	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Native American Heritage Day	28
29	30					





DECEMBER 2026

NOVEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JANUARY 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2026

JANUARY 2027

Winter Solstice

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Kwanzaa Begins

New Year's Eve

2025 "Keep the Sea Free of Debris!" Art Contest Winners



"When the sky is its true color, and the sea stays as blue as it should be, that's when they're the most beautiful and precious. Our greed and selfishness, with all the trash, waste, and oil, and making the sea sick and stripping it of its true beautiful form. We need to stop this right now. Let's all work together to help the sea stay as it was meant to be."

JANUARY

- Aaron M. (Grade 8, Virginia)



MAY

"Marine debris is hurting animals and plants in oceans and Great Lakes by making it hard for them to try to live and grow. I help by picking up trash at beach, recycling at home, and telling my friends and family to use less plastic."

Together, we can keep our ocean and Great Lakes clean and safe for all creatures that live there."

- Yiling L. (Grade 3, Michigan)



SEPTEMBER

"Marine debris negatively impacts our oceans and sea creatures. I can do my part in helping our environment by recycling harmful plastic which would otherwise be causing unfavorable trouble to our beloved oceans and animals I can also promote helping save the ocean to others and donate money to companies that remove plastic from the ocean."

- Yashika T. (Grade 6, New Jersey)



"The ocean is polluted by marine debris. Fish and animals there are suffering. I think it's important to first know this fact. Then we should think about how to save the ocean and take action. Whenever I play in the ocean, I always make time to pick up trash. That's how I can protect the ocean."

- Ai N. (Grade 4, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)

FEBRUARY



JUNE

"Marine debris impacts our ocean by destroying habitats and causing harm to our aquatic animals. Everyone should stop putting trash into our oceans and I will help clean up trash at beaches and throw them away. My artwork shows that marine debris hurts all of our animals in the sea."

- Mya T. (Grade 8, Massachusetts)



OCTOBER

"It impacts the ocean and Great Lakes because of all the trash ruining the ocean. If we had factories to make trash into helpful materials that would be good because then the animals can live in peace and there will be better use."

- Elise L. (Grade 7, Maryland)



"Marine debris, whether as microplastics, fishing nets, or trash, pollutes oceans and impacts marine life, putting in danger our ecosystems and the beauty of living on this planet. I try to clean the beach whenever we go oceanside and encourage my friends to not buy unnecessary plastic (toys, balloons, single use items)."

- Sophia U. (Grade 2, Florida)

MARCH



JULY

"Marine debris impacts our oceans and Great Lakes by hurting the living things and beauty of coral reefs. We can always pick up after ourselves and recycle to help create a healthy and safe marine life. Cleaner ocean, healthy water, happier sea life mean a better planet, a better place for us human beings!"

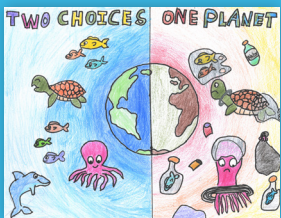
- Mila W. (Grade 5, Pennsylvania)



NOVEMBER

"The ecosystem is getting dirty and we can help the ecosystem by preventing oil spills and recycling. We need to clean up trash and stop using plastic bags."

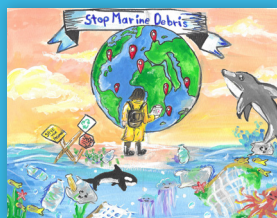
- Aiden P. (Grade 3, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)



"Marine debris impacts our oceans and Great Lakes by harming sea creatures like fish, sea turtles, octopuses, and other marine life. I can help keep our oceans clean by asking people not to litter and by picking up trash near the ocean and Great Lakes."

- Kenji B. (Grade 5, Guam)

APRIL



AUGUST

"Marine debris is trash and waste that ends up in our waterways, creating a significant threat to marine ecosystems. This art highlights the global crisis showing polluted waters with plastic, fishing nets, and other waste. Marine life such as orcas and dolphins, face the dangers of entanglement and ingestion of these harmful materials. The call to action "Stop Marine Debris" urges us to reduce, recycle, and reuse. Also you can participate in cleanups."

- Seshna J. (Grade 7, Florida)



DECEMBER

"Marine debris has significant impacts on both marine animals and humans. Marine animals may get injured or even death by mistaking debris for food or being entangled in debris. The pollution caused by debris will also put humans into health risk. Debris that sink to the bottom are more difficult to clean and may need people to dive and collect. End marine debris and let marine animals and humans have the clean ocean and lakes."

- Kailin G. (Grade 1, Michigan)

NOAA Marine Debris Program
Office of Response and Restoration
National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce



<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov> | Please recycle.