

**BRISTOL
OLD VIC**
AT CHRISTMAS

THE LITTLE MERMAID

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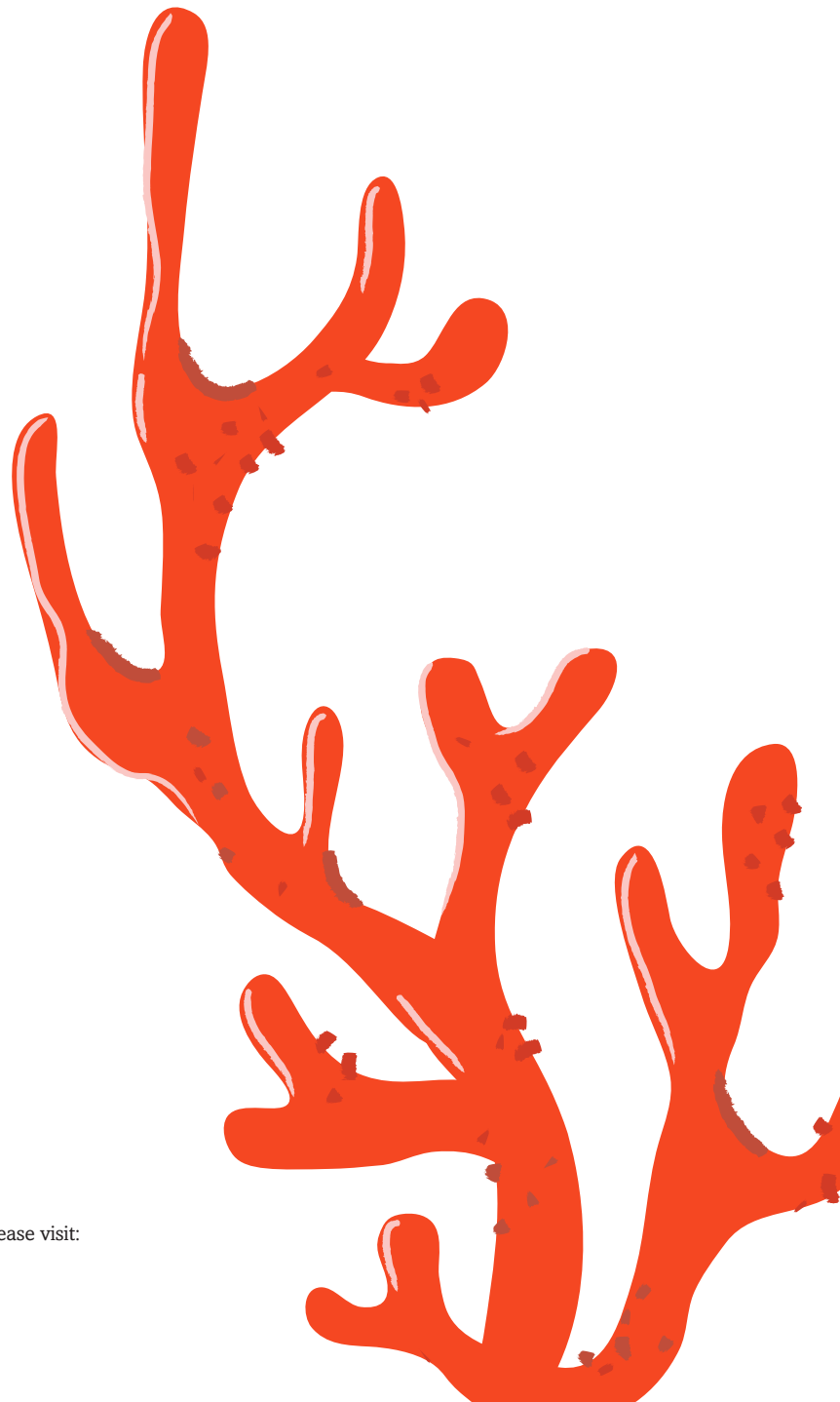
Directed by MIRANDA CROMWELL



KS2 EDUCATION PACK

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Written and compiled by Elinor Lower.

For more information about *The Little Mermaid*, please visit:
www.bristololdvic.org.uk/the-little-mermaid-2024

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PLOT

The Little Mermaid is about Sereia, a young mermaid who lives near a coral reef with her underwater friends: Clownfish, Spotlight, Starfish, Hammerhead, Puffer and Seahorse.

But there's something wrong with their home – the coral reef seems to be dying! Up on the surface, back on dry land, lives Kai, a young boy with a passion for music who thinks he might have a way to save the reef with his songs.

“Coral’s lost almost all her colour now – what will happen when she’s all pale and chalky?”

Sereia is worried that her home is going to disappear, so she decides to give up her tail and go up to the human world on land to try and do something about it. Up there, Kai's parents, who own a mysterious company, say they want to help the environment with a brand new idea, but everything is not as it seems...

Sereia and Kai meet, and Kai introduces her to all the features of the modern world: instant delivery, plastic packaging, and fast food. Together, they make plans to try out Kai's music idea to save the reef. But one day it is suddenly revealed that Kai's parents, and their mysterious company Open Tide, are actually the ones killing the reef – even though they've been pretending to save it! They have been working with the baddie Inky Slick, an oily character who lives beneath the seabed, to make all sorts of plastic products, and are planning to use a sonic blaster to find even more oil under the reef. If they do, it will destroy the whole habitat!

It seems like there's no escape, and Inky Slick is getting more and more powerful. But, at the last minute, Sereia and all her friends rise up to defeat him and show Kai's parents that what they're doing is wrong. They give control of the company to Kai, who promises to use it to save the ocean, and he and Sereia sing a final song, feeling hopeful about the future.



WHAT IS GREENWASHING?

Sometimes people or companies pretend to be doing more to protect the environment than they actually are. They might do this by saying they're reducing emissions or making their products "eco-friendly" without actually changing anything.

Or, they might pay for something good, like planting trees, to cover up the fact that their factories pump a lot of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere! Now that we are in a climate crisis, it has never been more important that we protect our environment, and our global emissions need to be cut in half in the next six years. So, we can't let companies and the world's wealthiest people lie about helping – we must work together to make sure they do the right thing!

Activities:

Design:

Using materials you find around your house (or in your recycling bin!) create an underwater scene. Perhaps you could crinkle up paper to make the waves, or tear cardboard into strips to make some coral?

Movement:

How does a fish move through the water? Have a go at playing some fun music and wiggling around the room like a clownfish, then a seahorse, then a hammerhead shark! How are they different? What about a mermaid? Or a pufferfish?

Mindmap:

What are some things we use in everyday life that might be bad for the ocean? Try to come up with some things we could change, to protect it (not everything will be something you can do alone, often we all need to work together to make big changes happen! For example, writing a letter to someone important, and getting all your friends to sign it).



WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the words from
The Little Mermaid in our wordsearch?

A	C	W	N	A	I	T	A	O	B	R	Y	L	P
S	E	N	I	G	M	H	A	M	R	E	E	F	R
H	P	S	S	R	E	L	L	H	E	T	N	E	A
E	O	A	E	E	D	T	L	D	A	O	O	L	T
U	L	S	A	E	H	T	S	I	O	I	M	T	S
N	L	T	H	N	S	W	M	E	R	L	E	R	W
D	U	A	O	W	I	P	E	E	T	D	N	U	A
E	T	R	R	A	F	L	R	L	C	O	E	T	V
R	I	F	S	S	N	A	M	S	O	O	R	P	E
W	O	I	E	H	W	S	A	M	R	C	G	P	S
A	N	S	N	I	O	T	I	D	A	E	Y	L	R
T	C	H	E	N	L	I	D	E	L	A	E	V	S
E	C	T	U	G	C	C	N	H	A	N	H	L	T
R	H	D	A	E	H	R	E	M	M	A	H	M	H

WAVES
PROTEST
CLOWNFISH
HAMMERHEAD
GREENWASHING
MERMAID
OCEAN
DRILL
OIL
SEAHORSE
CORAL
REEF
STARFISH
UNDERWATER
POLLUTION
MONEY
BOAT
ENERGY
TURTLE
PLASTIC



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Below are two pictures of a Coral Reef, but they're not quite the same. Can you spot the differences?

