Fundación Protejamos Patagonia

TEACHER GUIDE

Why Blame the Seagulls?

A film shot in Península Valdés, to understand how we take care of the sea.



A ready-to-use lesson to go with the film. It fits in one class or two: the film can be watched in one go or in parts. The early grades use the last sheet, with drawings instead of text.

What you need

- ☐ The film (link at the bottom), on a screen or projector.
- ☐ These sheets printed: one per group for the chain, one per child for the early grades.
- ☐ Scissors, and paper or card to stick the chain on.

1 · Before watching

What we know about whales. Talk out loud; there are no right or wrong answers yet.

- Has anyone seen a whale? Where?
- Why do you think southern right whales come to Península Valdés?
- What does a seagull eat? Where does it find it?
- What happens to the trash from school and from home? Where does it go?

Handy facts: every winter the southern right whale arrives in Península Valdés to have its calves in calm waters. The calf spends its first months close to its mother, drinking milk and learning to move in the sea. The kelp gull is a coastal bird that eats almost anything.

2 · While watching

Ask them to watch with one question in mind. They can take notes or draw.

- ☐ Where does the seagulls' food come from?
- ☐ What changes for the seagulls when there is more food?
- ☐ What do the whale mothers do?
- ☐ Who is "the villain" of the film? Are you sure?

3 · Afterward

The chain game, on paper. Cut out the five cards, shuffle them, and ask the group to put them in order, starting with what happens first. Then check against the key.

? Landfills and fishing waste are left out in the open.

? Seagulls find food all year round.

? There are more seagulls.

? Some seagulls learned to feed on whale skin.

? Mothers spend their time escaping instead of resting and nursing.

Cut out and shuffle

Key: the order is the order of the cards, 1 to 5.

The way back: if the trash is in its place, the seagull goes back to eating what it always ate, and the sea recovers its balance. A complete ecosystem causes fewer conflicts.

True or false?

T F Southern right whales come to Península Valdés to give birth. *(T)*

T F The seagull is the villain of the story. *(F: It does what any animal does: it eats what it finds.)*

T F What we throw away on land can change what happens at sea. *(T)*

T F Caring for the sea is only the job of those who study whales. *(F: It starts at home.)*

T F The film was shot in Península Valdés. *(T)*

Conversation about the school's waste

- What do we throw away at school in a day? Where does it end up?
- What could we separate or throw away less of?
- Is there food or leftovers within reach of animals?
- What class agreement can we make this week?

Three gestures that start at home

1. Separate the trash and throw away less.
2. Do not leave food or fish scraps within reach of the seagulls.
3. Tell people at home what we learned.

The website has a diploma to print with each child's name: Future guardians of Península Valdés.

Video: https://youtu.be/WFhiRFLDVIw

Early grades · drawing and chain

For the little ones: color the main characters and draw what happens, in order.



The southern right whale



The calf



The kelp gull

Draw what happens, in order:

1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5

Three gestures that start at home

- Separate the trash and throw away less.
- Do not leave food or fish scraps within reach of the seagulls.
- Tell people at home what we learned.