



A Cleaner Harbor

INSTRUCTIONS

Boston Harbor is clean enough to swim in these days, but it wasn't always so clean. Let's learn a little about how it has changed over time:

- 1. Think about it.** Picture all the trash buckets in your house. Where does it go? Now think about all the stuff you flush down the toilet. Where does all that stuff, or waste, end up?
- 2. Imagine.** What if all the waste that you were just picturing was dumped right in the water and on the islands of the Boston Harbor? What do you think would happen to the Harbor?
- 3. For real?** Believe it or not, there was a time not too long ago when that happened every day. The water and land became very polluted and hurt the health of the plants and wildlife. Many people were unhappy with the pollution from the waste, but for a long time not much changed. Boston Harbor was a stinky place!
- 4. Friends of the environment!** Luckily, there were some freinds of the environment, also known as *environmentalists*, who came to the rescue. They helped change laws and found better ways to take care of the waste that did less damage to the plants and wildlife.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: Paper, pencil and drawing supplies

- 5. Justice.** Because of the work of *environmentalists*, the people of Massachusetts were able to build a new factory called a *wastewater treatment plant* that took care of a lot of the waste. There, waste is processed, becomes cleaner, and less waste goes into the harbor!
- 6. A place to swim.** Because *environmentalists* came together and changed the laws, it's clean enough for you to swim in, and for all of the plants and animals that call the Boston Harbor their home.
- 7. Draw the future.** Take a few minutes to think about the *environmentalists*. They made Boston Harbor cleaner, but the work isn't done yet. Think about your community and imagine what it might look like in 50 years. What change would you want to see? Don't be afraid to think big or get creative! Take out your drawing tools and spend some time drawing what you want your community to look like in 50 years.
- 8. Describe your vision.** When you finish your drawing, pretend you're living in the future. Take a few minutes to write a letter to someone describing how your community changed in 50 years. Share with someone you know and show us on social media using the hashtag #FindYourParkAnywhere!

LEARN MORE

You can learn more about the Boston Harbor cleanup and how it's changed in the last 50 years by [watching this video!](#)

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- A community leader is someone who has **vision** or the ability to imagine the future. By sharing your ideas, you just did the work of a community leader. Who are other community leaders who you know?
- What are some things that are easier to get done as a team and harder to do by yourself?
- What are some things that you can do to help yourself and others be more responsible with trash?

