Climate Emergency: SOS Shipping

Climate change - we need to act fast

In 2018, scientists reviewed all the evidence on climate change and its impact. They reported that we need to act immediately to cut emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. By 2030 we need to at least halve the amount of CO_2 humans are producing (mainly by burning fossil fuels). And we need to get to zero by 2050.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulates shipping. Last year they agreed to halve emissions by 2050 - too late!

Representatives from almost all countries around the world are meeting again at the IMO in May 2019 and they need to be given a strong message: cut emissions now, don't wait.

There are new technologies that can make ships cleaner.

Even better, the IMO could cut emissions from the whole industry almost immediately by introducing a rule that ships must travel more slowly - this means they use less fuel.

Unfortunately we know that many countries' representatives at the meeting will be listening to shipping industry companies concerned about profits, not all the people in their own country and around the world who want them to act on climate change.

Send a message to IMO decision-makers

Step 1: Make a boat

See instructions over, use white or coloured A4 paper.

Step 2: Write a message on it and decorate it

Short simple messages are good, and then you can decorate the boat – be colourful!

'IMO cut emissions now!'
'Climate emergency - time to act'
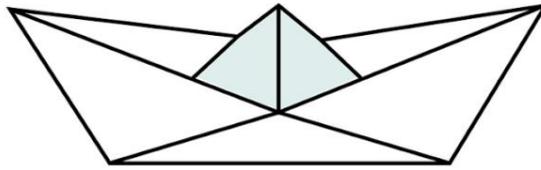'The world's children say act on climate'
'Shipping SOS - Climate Emergency'
'Slow down ships, don't speed up climate breakdown'
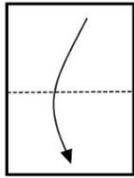'Cut carbon now for our future'

While we expect most of the boats will come from children and young people in the UK, we welcome them from anywhere (you could draw the flag of your home country on the boat). If you speak two languages why not add messages in both?

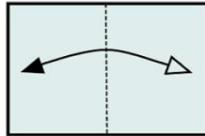You can include your first name and age to personalise your message.
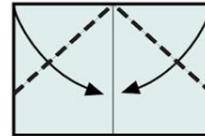
origami boat.

1

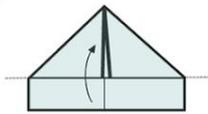Start from a
rectangle (ex. A4)
Fold in half.
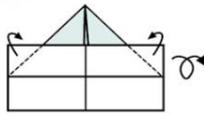
2

Fold in half
and unfold.

3

Fold to the center.

4

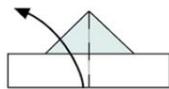Fold the overlapping
strip upwards.

5

Fold corners
backwards. Turn over.

6

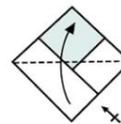Fold strip upwards.

7

Open.

8

45°

Opening in progress.

9

Fold triangle upwards.
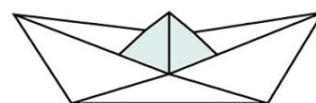Repeat behind.

10

45°

Open (like in the
steps 7 and 8).

11

Take upper
corners and stretch out.

12

you did it!