



Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

Lesson Plan

Grade Level: Kindergarten and Second Grade

Title: Natural or Man-Made?

Objective: Students will practice sorting. Students will be able to distinguish between natural and man-made objects. Students will be able to discuss the negative impact trash can make on the environment.

California Science Standards: K: 1a, 3c, 4c-b, 4d-e 2nd: 4c

Time to Complete: 30 minutes

Materials Provided by CMA Ocean Discovery Kits: *Worksheet: What Belongs on a Beach?*, Assortment of Shells, Gorgonians, Rocks, Feathers, Driftwood, Pieces of Fake Seaweed (Eelgrass), Packing Peanuts, 6-Pack Rings, Balloons with Ribbon, Pieces of Fishing Line, Pull Tabs from Soda Cans, Metal Bottle Caps, Nurdles

Materials Provided by Teacher: Add objects you can find from around your classroom and school such as plastic bags, glass bottles, leaves, pens, cups, etc.

Vocabulary: Natural, man-made, plastic, metal, glass, nurdles, fishing line, shell, rock, feather, seaweed, wildlife

Teacher Preparation:

- Place an assortment of natural and man-made objects into paper bags or bins for each team.

Lesson Outline:

1. Using the *Worksheet: What Belongs on a Beach?*, discuss what objects in the picture come from nature and can be considered “natural.” Discuss which objects are man-made (made by people).
2. Divide students into five teams. Each team should be able to work together around a workspace.
3. Place a mix of natural and man-made objects on their table and ask them to sort them by separating things that are natural and things that are man-made.

Lesson Wrap-Up:

1. Discuss with your students which group of objects is okay to find outside in nature/in your school yard.
2. Ask your students what harm some of these man-made objects can present to wildlife or to humans if they were left outside.

3. Discuss who is responsible for keeping these man-made objects from harming nature.

Clean-up:

1. Please carefully separate the items provided by CMA and any items you may have provided.
2. Return items provided by CMA into the appropriate bags.

Lesson Extensions:

1. Students can further sort items (natural objects can be sorted by things that come from plants and things that come from animals; man-made objects can be sorted by things that are made from plastic, polystyrene, glass, metal).
2. You can follow up this lesson by doing a beach cleanup and/or the **Worksheet: Schoolyard Survey** located in the 3rd grade section of the Ocean Discovery Kit Binder.