

STEAM-Cross-Curriculum

Activities in Science & Language Arts

Grades K thru 5



Cabrillo
Marine
Aquarium

Making Waves - This activity is to encourage elementary students to be more creative in their writing assignments. Have students write descriptive sentences about the ocean in up and down patterns, depicting the waves of the ocean. The students can then add color and ocean animals creating a colorful, language-arts experience!

Saltwater Paintings - Have students paint ocean pictures with a saltwater mixture on white construction paper. In a small container, mix 1/4 cup of warm water with 6 teaspoons of salt and 3 drops of food coloring. Mix well. Let pictures dry. When the water evaporates the colored salt will remain, creating a colorful & textured ocean scene.

Guess Who? - On index cards write the names of different ocean animals. Have students pick a card and research the animal on it. On the back of the card they can write unique facts about their animals: where it lives, what it eats, color, size, shape, how it behaves and protects itself. When they are finished, your students can swap with multiple partners to guess what ocean animal the description matches. This activity is interactive & loads of fun!

Colors of Fun! - Read the legend of *The Rainbow Bridge* by Audrey Wood. Discuss the themes & symbols in the story. Divide students into small groups and assign a different scene from the story for them to recreate in a collective drawing. Use white construction paper, colored markers, crayons and any other craft supplies to add color & texture to their scenes. When students are finished have them share & hang their story scenes in order, to be displayed in your classroom library. Definitely an eye-catcher!

Sea Mobile - Have students work in groups to draw and color pictures of sea animals that live in each zone of the ocean. Cut the pictures out and glue them to heavy construction paper. Next punch holes and tie them to a clothes hanger to make the hanging mobile. Display them around the room and have students identify the zone of the ocean represented.

Aqua Animal Acrostics - This is a great way for students to recall facts about sea animals. Write an ocean word down on the chalkboard. Brainstorm related words that begin with each letter and list them on the board. As a class, use the words to create an acrostic about the animal. In no time at all, students will be creating their own!

Creature Discovery - Pretend you have just discovered a new animal in the ocean. Name your animal, tell where you found it, what it looks like, size and color, what it eats, and how it behaves. Make an illustration of your ocean animal in its habitat and share your discovery with the class. The stories and illustrations can be separated and your students can guess which creature illustration matches its description.

Sand Art - Give each student a sandwich-sized plastic baggie filled with sand, add a few drops of desired food coloring, seal bags and shake for about 1 minute. Have students design a beach scene on white construction paper using white Elmer's glue. Then pour the colored sand over the entire picture and after about 10 minutes have students shake off the excess sand. Students can also share their colored sand with classmates to make a colorful beach scene for all to admire!