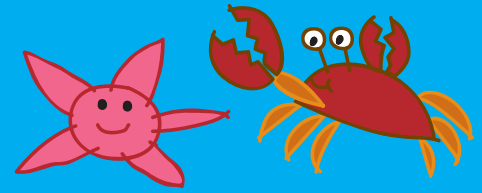


SEA LIFE THEME BOX



Designed to meet these objectives:

- Students will listen attentively and respond to instructions.
- Students will use oral language to describe objects and experiences.
- Students will learn new words and expand vocabulary.
- Students will identify and produce beginning sounds.
- Students will sort objects by various attributes.
- Students will build number sense.
- Students will identify numbers and count corresponding quantities.
- Students will measure length with standard units.
- Students will learn about the characteristics of living things.
- Students will compare and contrast attributes of sea creatures and their habitats.
- Students will develop gross and fine motor skills.

Your new Sea Life Theme Box has everything you need for comprehensive, hands-on lessons that span the curriculum. We've included a wide variety of props and manipulatives that help children explore the world beneath the waves—and learn about the fascinating creatures that live there! Inside this guide, you'll find ideas for dozens of involving, ocean-themed activities covering 10 cross-curricular learning areas—from math to dramatic play. We've even included a list of terrific children's books to build up your classroom library. The Sea Life Theme Box is a perfect way to capture children's attention and boost essential skills!

What's Included

- Sea life sorting center (4 sorting mats and 16 photo sorting pieces with storage pouch)
- 10 sea life photo cards
- 6 foam stamps
- 24 sea life counters with a storage tub
- Life-size crab
- Real sea star
- Storage tub
- Plastic aquarium
- Ink pad
- Large shell
- Humpback whale
- 2 seashells



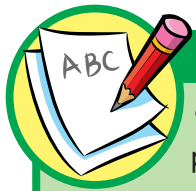
WARNING:

CHOKING HAZARD—Small parts.
Not for children under 3 yrs.



WARNING:

This set contains a natural shell that can break into sharp point or edge if dropped. Handle with care and use adult supervision.



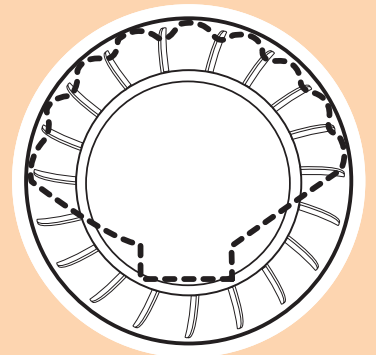
Language

- Make a class alphabet book featuring sea life from A to Z! Gather 13 sheets of paper for the inner pages, add construction paper covers, and staple the book together. Help children find examples of sea creatures for each letter. Then, have them draw pictures or cut out photos from old magazines to illustrate each page.
- Write a letter to a sea creature describing life on land. Ask the animal questions about life under the sea.
- Help children identify the animals on the photo cards. Then, make up a story using all of the sea creatures on the cards!
- Identify the sea animal counters, emphasizing the beginning sounds of the words. Then, work as a class to think of a name for each animal that begins with the same sound. For example, “Sam the Sea Horse,” “Whitney the Whale,” “Shawna the Shark,” and so on.
- Encourage children to use the sea life stamps and ink pad to create an underwater scene. Then, have them tell you about their pictures. Write their dictation at the bottom of their scenes.
- Invite up to four children to use the sorting center. Have each child choose a sorting card, and then work together to sort the photographic pieces onto their cards. Encourage them to talk about what they are doing.



Art

- Create underwater shadow boxes with sand, shells, blue cellophane, and fish cutouts. Display on a net-covered table!
- Make “shell pouches” from small, lightweight paper plates with scalloped edges. Draw a shell shape on the plates like the one shown here. Prompt children to cut out the shells and decorate them with crayons, markers, or paint. Tape or staple pairs of shells together along the bottom and sides to make shell pouches.
- Paint an underwater mural to hang on your bulletin board. Use the stamps to add sea creatures to the scene.
- Make paper fish fins, tails, and scales to wear for a “school of fish” parade.
- Help children make their own sea stars. Set the sea star on construction paper and trace around it. Then, cut out the shape, rub it with a glue stick, and sprinkle with sand for a realistic texture.
- Invite children to make 3-D fish. Draw a fish shape on construction paper and cut out two copies. Staple or tape along the edges, leaving a large opening. Stuff crumpled paper inside to create a 3-D effect. Decorate with paint, sequins, and wiggly eyes, and suspend the completed fish from the ceiling.



Sand & Water

- Use the sea life counters to create an underwater scene in your water table.
- Make some “sensational sand”! Fill clean, empty margarine tubs with 1/2 cup of sand. Add one drop of food coloring. Press the lid firmly into place and shake until the sand is evenly colored. Then, open the lid and set in a sunny place until the sand is dry. Use the colored sand in your sand table.



Science

- Observe and compare the real shells and sea star. How are they alike? How are they different?
- Invite children to examine the plastic crab and humpback whale. Explain that, while both of these animals are sea creatures, they are very different! Crabs live in rocky places near the shore. Whales swim in the waters of the open ocean. Crabs are small, but whales are very large. What other differences can children think of? (Crabs crawl, whales swim; crabs have hard shells, whales have skin; crabs have legs, whales have fins, etc.)
- Discuss the animals in the photo cards. What are their habitats? What do they eat? Which ones have shells? Which ones swim with fins?
- Explain that all animals need oxygen to live. We get our oxygen from the air we breathe into our lungs, but fish can't do that! Instead of lungs, fish have gills. The gills absorb oxygen from the water that flows past them.
- Take a field trip to a marine aquarium and/or beach.
- Have any of your students been swimming in the ocean? What did the water taste like? Do an experiment to find out why sea water tastes different. Set two pie pans in a sunny place. Pour two cups of distilled water in one. Pour two cups of salt water in the other. (Dissolve 2 teaspoons of salt in warm tap water.) Then, leave the pans undisturbed for two or three days until the water evaporates. Observe and discuss what is happening. Where is the water going? When all of the water has evaporated, examine the pans. What is left over?



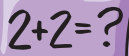
Music

- Listen to a recording of Raffi's "Baby Beluga."
- Sing "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean." Substitute different children's names for "Bonnie."
- Have children swim like fish as they sing these lyrics to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush":
*This is the way that fishes swim, fishes swim, fishes swim!
They wiggle their tails and flap their fins in the deep blue ocean.*



Active Play

- Practice "swimming" to music. Use your arms to do the crawl, breaststroke, backstroke, and dog paddle.
- Have children hold hands and form a long line. Then, pretend to be a giant ocean wave.
- Float around the classroom like a jellyfish. Then, move like a squid or octopus. How does a shark swim around in the ocean? How about a dolphin?
- Hold "crab races." Racers should pretend to be crabs and walk sideways with both feet and hands on the ground.
- Play "Octopus Tag." Ask a volunteer to be the octopus and stand in the center of the area. The other children will be fish. The octopus must stay in one place and try to tag the fish using only its arms. Each fish that gets tagged becomes part of the octopus, holding hands to make the octopus's arms even longer. Keep playing until all of the children have joined the octopus.
- Prompt children to move together as if they were a school of fish. What happens to the leaders when the school turns and swims in a new direction?

 $2+2=?$

Math

- Tell children that a humpback whale can grow to be 50 feet long. How long is that? To find out, help children use rulers to measure and cut 50 one-foot pieces of string. Then, take the string pieces outside and lay them end to end on the playground. (You may want to tape the pieces together.) If everyone holds hands and forms a line, will the line be more or less than 50 feet long? Try it and find out!
- Use the sea life counters or the photographic pieces from the sorting center for counting, sorting, and patterning activities.
- Fish for numbers! Cut out 10 fish shapes and number them from 1 to 10. On the back of each fish, draw the corresponding number of dots or stars. Attach metal paper clips to the fish. Then, use a dowel, string, and magnet to make a fishing rod. Now you're ready to play fishing games that build number sense. For example, challenge children to catch fish in numerical order, catch a fish with more than six dots, catch two fish with a total of four dots, and so on.
- Call out a number and have children count that many sea life counters into the plastic aquarium.



Dramatic Play

- Create an underwater classroom with nets, crepe paper "seaweed," and hanging fish shapes. Encourage children to pretend they are mermaids, mermen, or sea creatures.
- Place several chairs in a row to make a submarine. Invite children to take a trip beneath the waves. What do they see when they look through the windows?
- Spend a summer day at the beach—inside your classroom! Bring in beach towels, sand toys, sun hats, and sunglasses. Don't forget to put on your sunscreen!



Cooking

- Make edible mini oceans! Pour blue gelatin into clear plastic cups. Add gummy fish. Let the gelatin set and enjoy!
- Serve submarine sandwiches made with hot dog buns, tuna fish, cheese slices, and other condiments. Attach slices of olives or pickles for portholes. Use baby carrots or celery sticks to make periscopes.
- Pour fish-shaped crackers into a glass fishbowl or aquarium. Use a small fishnet to scoop out a snack.



Library

- *At the Beach*
by Anne Rockwell
- *Dolphin*
by Robert A. Morris
- *Fish Eyes*
by Lois Ehlert
- *Fish is Fish*
by Leo Lionni
- *Fish Wish*
by Bob Barner
- *A House for Hermit Crab*
by Eric Carle
- *The Little Mermaid*
by Hans Christian Andersen
- *The Rainbow Fish*
by Marcus Pfister
- *The Seashore Book*
by Charlotte Zolotow
- *Swimmy*
by Leo Lionni