

Music

- Listen to a recording of humpback whales or dolphins “singing.”
- Listen and dance to “Under the Sea” from *The Little Mermaid* soundtrack.
- Sing “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean.” Take turns substituting the name of each child for “Bonnie.”
- Enjoy listening to the musical story of a baby beluga whale on Raffi’s *Baby Beluga*. Act out the words of the song.

Science

- Compare shell shapes and patterns. Listen to the shells. Do you hear any sounds?
- Examine how fish breathe under water. Is it different from you? Discuss the difference between gills and lungs.
- Take a field trip to an aquarium. If possible, go whale watching.
- Observe the differences between salt and fresh water. (See flip side for a simple science experiment.)

Art

- Create underwater shadowboxes with sand, shells, blue cellophane and fish cut-outs. Display on a net-covered table!
- Make seashell necklaces by stringing small shells together with yarn or string.
- Paint an underwater mural to hang on your bulletin board.
- Trace fish and seashell prints.
- Make fish fins, tails and scales out of paper to wear during class.

Active Play

- Have children practice swim strokes in the air to music. Do the breaststroke, crawl, backstroke and dog paddle.
- Hold hands in a straight line. Pretend to be a giant ocean wave.
- Float and swim around the classroom like an octopus or squid.
- Pretend to be crabs and have a race with both hands and feet on the ground—walking sideways!

Sea Life

Language

- Write a class big book on sea life from A to Z.
- Keep a class journal on your time spent “under the sea.” Paste in photos or magazine cut-outs.
- Send a letter to an octopus or shark describing life on land. Ask it questions regarding life under the sea.
- Read *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni and other ocean-themed books. (Listed on flip side.)

Cooking

- Make submarine sandwiches out of hot dog buns, tuna fish, cheese and other condiments. Provide pickles for periscopes and olives for portholes!
- Make an edible aquarium out of blueberry gelatin in a clear bowl. Add gummy fish. Let the gelatin set and enjoy!
- Serve square crackers covered with blue-tinted cream cheese. Top off with fish-shaped crackers.

Math

- Fish for numbered sea creature cut-outs! Use a magnetic fishing pole and put a paper clip on each sea creature.
- Children find a called-out number of shells hidden in a sandbox.
- How many fake fish in the fish bowl? Add more and ask again.
- Practice sequencing using different sized fish cut-outs—children put them in order from small to large.

Dramatic Play

- Create an underwater classroom with nets, seaweed and hanging fish. Children become mermaids, mermen and fish who live under the sea.
- Take a ride in a submerged submarine. What do you see out the window?
- Spend a summer day at the beach—inside the classroom. Bring in beach towels, buckets and sunglasses.
- Swim together as a school of fish.

Sea Life

Children are fascinated with the deep, blue sea and all the life that dwells within it—from crabs and prawns to whales! Your Sea Life Theme Box is full of materials that will assist you in helping your students develop an understanding of life under the sea and how it differs from the land. We've also included a web full of activities to help you integrate the Sea Life theme across the curriculum.

Using the Materials:

Sea Shells

- Hold the large whelk shell up to your ear. What do you hear? Can you guess why?
- Sort the small plastic shells by different attributes—shape, color, pattern, etc.

Vinyl Sea Creatures

- Hold up the large sea creatures. Talk about their habitats.
- Create linear patterns using the small sea creatures—sea horse, turtle, sea horse. Separate small sea creatures into groups by color, shape, etc.

Book

- Read the book to the class. Share the illustrations with students. What things do they recognize in the pictures? Are any of the animals unfamiliar?
- If any of your students have visited an aquarium, ask them to share their experience with the class.

Picture Cards

- Using the appropriate cards, discuss how some sea animals live in shells.
- Compare and contrast sea animal behaviors—how they eat and move, where they live, etc.

Sea Life Stamps

- Use the stamps to make an underwater scene.
- Write a class story and illustrate it with the stamps.

Small Aquarium

- Use the small plastic fish, some plastic shells, pebbles and seaweed to create an underwater scene in your aquarium.

Suggested Reading

At the Beach

by Anne Rockwell

Dolphins

by Robert Morris

Fish Eyes

by Lois Ehlert

Fish is Fish

by Leo Lionni

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

Sensational Sand

- Sand
- Food coloring dye
- Empty margarine tubs

Fill each margarine tub with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sand. Add one drop of food coloring to each tub of sand. Put the margarine lids on securely and shake until the sand is covered in color.

Experiment with different amounts and combinations of food coloring to make different colors and different shades.

Place open containers in the sunlight to dry. Use for arts and crafts projects.

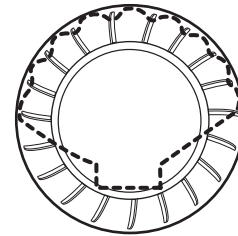
Stars of the Sea!

Most starfish have five “arms” that are arranged like a star coming from their central body parts. If it loses one of these arms, the starfish can grow a new one! Have the children trace the starfish included in your theme box on construction paper. Cut it out, cover in glue and sprinkle with sand! Let the glue dry and display.

Seashells, Seashells

Seashells are fascinating objects. Not only are they beautiful to look at, but they are interesting too! For example, many of the seashells you see are the “leftover houses” of sea creatures! Try the following art activities.

- Take small lightweight paper plates (with scalloped edges) and draw a shell pattern on them like the one shown to the right. Let children cut out their shells and then decorate them with crayons, markers or paint. Make two “shells” and staple them together on the bottom and sides to make a “shell pouch.”



- Use the sea life stencils in your theme box to create a sea life mobile. Trace, color and cut out shapes. Hang from a wire to decorate your classroom.
- Trace sea life shapes on construction paper with crayons. Paint over them in blue for an underwater scene. Make small individual projects or use a large sheet of paper for a class project.

Salty is the Sea

Have you ever been swimming in the ocean and swallowed a mouthful of water? How did it taste? It was probably very salty. Here's a simple science experiment that will allow children to discover where the salty taste comes from. To get started, collect these items:

- 2 pie pans
- 2 cups ocean or sea water (or 2 cups of fresh water with 2 tsp. salt mixed in)
- 2 cups distilled water

Pour the ocean water into one pan and the distilled water into the other. Allow the water in both pans to evaporate completely. (This will take 2-3 days). Observe and compare the pie pans.