



Outrageous Oceans

This activity will teach students about the ocean and introduce them to marine life.

S tudents Will Be Able To:

[1] Accurately sort and classify living things according to common characteristics (colour, shape, size);

[2] Identify the needs of individual animals.

MATERIALS

- ★ Props from Discovery AquaKit

Background

Organisms can be classified into groups depending on their physical characteristics; body shape and structure, size, life cycles, etc. During this lesson, students will sort and classify living things using common characteristics.

Preparation

Teachers

- Clear an area for students to sit.
- Set up a desk or table at the front with the props (of choice) from the kit.
- Set beside the table a couple pieces of garbage and recycling for the conclusion.
- Review included information on the chosen props (if necessary).

Students

- No preparation necessary.

Steps

1) Introduction \ 5 min ;

- Sit students down on the floor.
- Introduce them to the day's activities.

2) Activity \ 10 min ;

Ask the students to name some of their favorite marine animals (sea stars, whales, sharks, crabs, etc.) and then to pretend to be one of those animals. Prompt the students to eat, move, hide, and sleep like those animals, introducing them to the concepts of the basic needs of animals. Once students finish the activity, review what marine animals need to stay alive (i.e. the actions they just did).

3) Activity \ 20 min ;

- Go through the props and pictures found in the kit and use the information sheets provided (if necessary) to describe the animals to the students. For each animal, have students use their bodies to demonstrate the body shape of the animals they are looking at, point to objects in the room that are the same colour as the animals they are looking at, and use hands and arms to show how big the animals are.
- Have the students, either all together or one at a time, help sort some of the represented animals by shape, size, and colour (for older students have them sort by what they eat or where in the ocean they live).

4) Conclusion \ 10 min ;

Using Discovery AquaKit props as well as some garbage or recycling from the classroom, have the students work together to sort the objects into things that belong in the ocean (animals and props) and things that don't (garbage and recycling). Ask the children to put these items where they do belong, and remind them why it is important to keep them out of the oceans.

Additional Activity:

Go outside and have each student pick up 5 pieces of garbage, if it is safe, to encourage them to care for their environment.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Processes and Skills of Science

Kindergarten

- use the five senses to make observations.
- share with others information obtained by observing.

Grade 1

- communicate their observations, experiences, and thinking in a variety of ways (e.g., verbally, pictorially, graphically).
- classify objects, events, and organisms.

Life Science

Kindergarten

- describe features of local plants and animals (e.g., colour, shape, size, texture).
- compare common animals.

Grade 1

- classify living and non-living things.
- describe the basic needs of local plants and animals (e.g., food, water, light).
- describe how the basic needs of plants and animals are met in their environment.