



## KIDS ENVIRONMENTAL LESSON PLANS

This lesson plan developed by:



### Beach Sculptures



#### Overview:

Students use their creative side to build a beach sculpture out of items found along the coast including natural objects and marine debris.

#### Ocean Literacy Principles:

2. The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth
3. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected

#### Key Concepts:

Through this activity students will learn about exploring, beach ecology, marine debris and how to collaborate to create a piece of art.

#### Materials:

- Any beach or open coastal space
- Seashore items: shells, stones, beach litter (except for unsanitary items and sharps), driftwood and rope
- Basic digging tools and buckets (optional)

#### Duration:

10 minutes – all day activity

**Physical Activity:**

Moderate

**Background:**

You don't need a clean sandy beach to make beach sculptures or beach drawings. Beach sculptures can be made at any scale from very small intricate pieces to large group pieces. Useful items include shells, stones, beach litter (except for unsanitary items and sharps), driftwood and rope. You may wish to set ground rules at the start about what can be used. Nothing that is living should be used (including seaweed attached to rocks), sharps, unsanitary items or anything another group has gathered for their own sculpture.

**Activity:**

1. Divide large group into smaller teams or all work together if you have space.
2. Decide on a theme. For example, a sea creature (real or imaginary). Another idea is to ask children to invent their own sea creature, adapted to live on shore.
3. Set a time limit and encourage teamwork, perhaps suggesting that roles are assigned in the team (gatherers, designers, builders, etc).

**Discussion:**

1. When the sculptures are completed, pretend that the whole group is visiting an art gallery and walk to each sculpture, stopping at each while groups explain a little about their sculpture and answer questions about their work.
2. Discuss the materials students used for their sculptures, once living, non-living or human-created.
3. Take photos of the artists with their work before the tide "wipes the canvas clean".
4. It is also a great opportunity to discuss beach litter, removing any that has been used in artwork to dispose of sensibly.
5. This beach art activity can be run with a scavenger hunt, using the finds from the hunt in the beach sculptures.



# Beach Sculpture (cont.)

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