



KIDS ENVIRONMENTAL LESSON PLANS

This lesson plan developed by:



Explore the Shore

Overview:

Help students explore their natural surroundings and learn about the local ecosystem with ID books for shells, birds and seaweeds. Students can participate in a scavenger hunt and try to identify items they find.

Ocean Literacy Principles:

4. The ocean made Earth habitable
5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems
6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected

Materials:

- The Seaside Naturalist - Deborah A. Coulombe
- ID books for shells, birds, seaweeds, etc. (optional)
- One or two sheets of paper per student
- Clipboards (optional)
- Crayons and colored pencils
- Access to a beach or shoreline

Duration:

30-60 minutes

Physical Activity:

Moderate



Activity:**Part 1 – Introduction to the Shoreline**

Begin the activity with a verbal “brainstorm” about what type of items may be found along the shoreline. If you have a whiteboard, make a list. Are the items living? Non-living? This activity helps students connect with nature and learn how to identify items found along the shoreline.

Part 2 – Explore and Identify

1. As a group, walk along the shoreline and use *The Seaside Naturalist* or other ID books to help identify items found along the beach.
2. Once students understand how to find and identify items, have them work in small groups to explore the shoreline.
3. Have the students choose two items they identified on the beach and draw them on a sheet of paper.
4. Have the students list three questions about each item that they want to learn more about.
5. Have a group discussion about the items and questions.

Part 3 – Scavenger Hunt

1. After the students have explored the shoreline and learned how to identify different items, tell them that they will be going on a scavenger hunt (in pairs or small groups) for the following items:
 - One shell
 - One seaweed
 - One crab shell
 - Viewing of one bird
 - One manmade object
2. Once they have retrieved (or viewed) all of the items, have them use the books to determine the identify of each item.

**Discussion:**

As a group, discuss the following questions:

- What items that you found on the beach surprised you the most?
- Were certain items only found in specific places (i.e. intertidal)?
- What item do you want to learn more about?
- Are there ways that we can protect marine life and our shorelines?

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