



Ocean Theme

There are so many interesting creatures that live in the ocean. Children will love going on an ocean adventure to explore under the sea!

Language & Literacy

Books

In One Tidepool: Crabs, Snails, and Salty Tails

by Anthony D. Fredericks

Ocean Soup: A Book of Tide Pool Poems

by Stephen R. Swinburne

Seashells, Crabs and Sea Stars: Take-Along Guide

by Christiane Kump Tibbitts

The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark

by Will Grace

Commotion in the Ocean

by Giles Andreae

The Rainbow Fish

by Marcus Pfister

Mister Seahorse

by Eric Carle

Over in the Ocean

by Marianne Berkes

Songs, Poems, & Finger-plays:

I'm a Great Big Whale

I'm a great big whale,
Watch me as I swim,
(pretend to swim)
Here is my blowhole,
(point to top of head)
Here are my fins.
(wave hands against body)
See me flip my tail,
As down I go,
(pretend to dive)
Then up I come,
And "Whoosh!" I blow.
(thrust arms up and out)
Elizabeth McKinnon

Slippery Fish

Slippery fish, slippery fish, (Wiggle hand out in front of you)

swimming in the water, Slippery Fish, Slippery Fish

Gulp, Gulp, Gulp,

And he was eaten by a... (Repeat verses inserting other animals and how they move)

Tuna Fish (Swimming) (Open and close hand)

Octopus (Squirting) (Wiggle fingers in front of you)

Great White Shark (Chomping) (Open and close arms like sharks mouth)

Humongous Whale (Spouting) (Push arms up over your head like water spouting out a blow hole)

Activities

Alphabet Go Fish! – Print the **Fish Alphabet Cards** from the **Theme Enhancements Page**. Attach a paperclip to each one, make a fishing pole with a dowel and string with a magnet attached to the end.

Math & Number Concepts

Fish Bowl Counting- Print a copy of the **Fishbowl Counting Activity Page** from the **Theme Enhancements Page** for each child. Invite them to place the correct number of fish stickers or die cuts in each box.

Art

Rainbow Fish

Supplies: Blue tag board with fish shapes traced on it (precut for really young children), sequins, glue, fish line or string, paper punch.

Directions: Each child needs a fish they can cut it out and glue sequins on it however they wish to make their very own rainbow fish! Then have them punch a hole in the top and tie fish line or string to hang it with.

Bubble Print Fish- Hang bubble wrap on your easel, let the kids paint it with a kids paint roller. Provide precut fish shaped paper. The kids can place the fish shape over the painted bubble wrap, rub the top and peel it off for a scaly fish print! We offer several colors to make colorful rainbow fish.

Sand pictures- draw a picture with glue and sprinkle sand over the top.

Ocean Relief Painting- Invite the children to draw an ocean inspired picture on white construction paper with crayons or cray-pas. Demonstrate for them how to paint with blue watercolors over the top of the picture to create the relief.

Dramatic Play

Put a picnic basket in the dramatic play center for the kids to pretend to go to the ocean and have a picnic.

A big box for a boat or submarine will add hours of fun! Play fishing poles too!

Fill a small wading pool with shredded blue construction paper, and plastic fish for the kids to explore.

Music & Movement

Play some classical music and invite the children to "swim" with you underwater. Encourage them to move to the music discuss what a fish might swim like in the ocean. *Increase interest by offering the kids long pieces of blue crepe paper streamers to make ocean waves!

Science & Sensory

Sand Sculptures- Make some sand clay for sea sculptures. Provide seashells, some starfish, etc. for them to make prints in the sand clay and explore with. Provide shells, starfish, and sand dollars for the kids to explore and observe. *Shells are fun to press into play dough or other clay materials to make prints or "fossils".

Blocks & Building

Add marine animals to the block area. Encourage children to build aquariums for the fish.

Technology

Hook the Fish- An online fishing game, great to help kids learn to master using a mouse.

Cooking & Snacks

Fishing for Crackers- Gold Fish crackers, peanut butter and pretzels... Go fishing, give kids a little peanut butter to dip their pretzel stick and try to stick it on a gold fish cracker to catch it.

Bulletin Boards

"Fishing For Good Work": Hang kid's art work or other work that they are proud of from an ocean themed bulletin board covered with sea creatures and fishing net. Just clip their work right to the nets with clothespins!

Write your ideas here...