

Science Week Activities

OCEAN ODYSSEY

Activities celebrating the life in our oceans for Science Week or a themed activity week linked to aspects of the curriculum.



Ideas for activities for Foundation to Key Stage 2

The theme of Ocean Odyssey will begin in Foundation and Key Stage 1, investigating amazing animals that live in the oceans through the media of books, to the great giants of our seas in Key Stage 2.

Ideas for activities are as follows -

Foundation and Key Stage 1

- **Foundation** - use books to introduce children to the environment of the sea and animals that live there, for example -
The Snail and the Whale *Tiddler - The story - telling fish*
The Rainbow Fish
- From reading the books children can make a seascape of some of the animals that live there, for example, mosaic rainbow fish, scaly foil sharks, egg carton crabs, felt octopus, colour cellophane jellyfish, furry penguins/seals. This can be used for a seascape display.
- Play games such as outlined in this web-link -
<http://www.preschooleducation.com/gocean.shtml>
- **Key Stage 1** - After reading *The Snail and the Whale* and *Tiddler - The story telling fish*, ask children to think of some of the animals in the stories. Using templates of the animals children make collage marine mobiles.
- Look at the Humpback Whale in *The Snail and the Whale*. Discuss what children know about whales and dolphins - have they seen any? Do they know that we have some species off the coast of this country?
 Show children pictures of some of the species. Do they have any idea of the size of these animals?
 Complete **Sea Watch activity** - *How big are the cetaceans in our seas?* (adults to help children measure the sizes outside.)
- **An extra** - A link to Science *RCA Unit 3 Animals and us*. Make cards and play the Animal Name Game, but for animals that live in the sea.



Ideas for activities for Foundation to Key Stage 2



Key Stage 2

These are ideas for each year group, but are only a guideline!

- **Year 3** - Read [The Snail and the Whale](#) with the children. Talk about some of the animals that we have in our seas.
Discuss what children know about whales and dolphins - have they seen any? Do they know that we have some species off the coast of this country?
Show children pictures of some of the species. Do they have any idea of the size of these animals?
Complete **Sea Watch activity** - *How big are the cetaceans in our seas?*
- Complete **Sea Watch activity** - *I wonder which Whales and Dolphins live in our seas?*
This could be adapted and children could make a giant collage of Great Britain for display and then using simple outline templates with labels pin the whales and dolphins in the correct location. Groups allocated to eleven species and the Islands!
- **Year 4** - Read [The Snail and the Whale](#) with the children. Talk about some of the animals that we have in our seas.
Discuss some of the species that were in the story. Give groups cards with species names on and ask them to decide which animal they think eats what.
- Complete **Sea Watch Activity** - **Feeding Frenzy Food Chains.**

[Link to QCA Unit 4B Habitats](#)

- Discuss what children know about whales and dolphins - have they seen any? Do they know that we have some species off the coast of this country?
Show children pictures of some of the species. Do they have any idea of the size of these animals?
Complete **Sea Watch activity** - *How big are the cetaceans in our seas?*



Ideas for activities for Foundation to Key Stage 2



- **Year 5** – As an introduction to today's activities introduce the concept of biodiversity with the children, using the format of a mind-map. Complete together on white-board. Focus children's attention to our Oceans.
- Read *The Snail and the Whale* with the children. Talk about some of the animals that we have in our seas.
 Discuss what children know about whales and dolphins – have they seen any? Do they know that we have some species off the coast of this country?
 Show children pictures of some of the species. Do they have any idea of the size of these animals?
 Complete **Sea Watch activity – How big are the cetaceans in our seas?**
 As an extension activity children to make scale drawings/models to add to the display.
- Discuss why marine mammals need to keep themselves warm, thinking particularly about those that migrate to, or live in the polar regions. How do children think they do this?
 Complete a science investigation on insulation, children plan ideas and carry out.
[Link to QCA Unit 4C Keeping Warm](#)
- **Year 6** – As an introduction to today's activities introduce the concept of biodiversity with the children, using the format of a mind-map. Complete together on white-board. Focus children's attention to our Oceans.
- Read *Whale Journey* with the children. Using a map on the whiteboard mark where the whales begin and end their annual migration.
 Complete **Sea Watch activity – Magnificent Marine Migrations - Voyage of the Grey Whale.**
 Children could complete map activity in pairs or threes.
 Complete storyboard of the story using the media of art for display.
- Discuss with children how they think whales can stay underwater for so long. Do the children know what the purpose of the blow-hole is? Discuss. Show them **The Sea Watch breath chart** of some of the species. Complete science investigation making spirometers (see assembly activity); showing children their own lung capacities.

Books referenced above as follows -

Donaldson, Julia. (2003) *The Snail and the Whale*, Campbell Books, Macmillan Publishers, London.

Donaldson, Julia. (2007) *Tiddler, The story-telling fish*, Alison Green Books, Scholastic, London.

French, Vivian. (1998) *Whale Journey*, Zero to Ten Limited, Berkshire.

Some extra ideas and activities -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/blueplanet/>

Great games about our oceans

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/orca/>

Information and articles about whales and dolphins

<http://www.first-school.ws/activities/animals/ocean/whale.htm>

Ideas and activities for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/language-assistant/primary-tips/beach>

Beach theme activities

<http://www.kidsbiology.com/animals-for-children.php?category=Whales,%20dolphins,%20and%20Porpoises>

Information and photos about marine and other animals

http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/lc/activities/critter_cards.asp

A great 'Guess Who?' style game, where children make cards and then ask and answer questions. The link for the mammals cards is -

http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/PDF_files/activities/aquarium_mammal_crittercards.pdf

