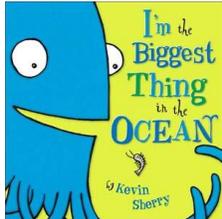


Ocean Animals Read-Aloud Outline

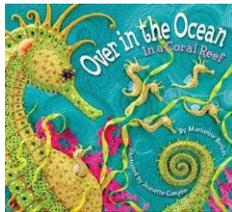
The ocean is full of interesting creatures, big and small. Oceans contain everything from squid to sponges and from sharks to anemones. See if everyone can learn something new from this collection of books.



I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry

Ages 3 to 8

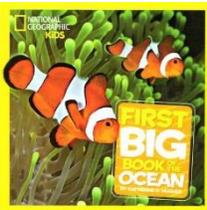
A silly squid is convinced that he's the biggest thing in the ocean and shows us many of the animals smaller than he. What will happen when he finds out there are animals much bigger than he?



Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef by Marianne Berkes

Ages 3 to 7

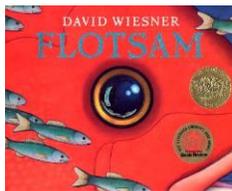
This rhyming and repeating tale counts sea animal mothers and their children as they swim through the ocean.



National Geographic Kids First Big Book of the Ocean by Catherine D. Hughes

Ages 4 to 9

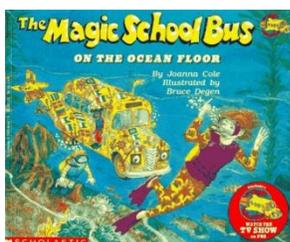
This nonfiction book has the perfect amount of information for engaging a younger crowd while giving the kids the facts they crave. Each animal has its own double-page spread with several big pictures. Let kids direct which animals they want to learn about.



Flotsam by David Wiesner

Ages 5 to 12

Winner of the Caldecott Medal in 2007, this wordless book chronicles the travels of an underwater camera that has been dragged through the ocean. A boy examines the pictures and finds that underwater life is not quite what he imagined.



The Magic School Bus On the Ocean Floor by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen

Ages 7 to 12

Ms. Frizzle takes her class on an adventure into the depths of the ocean. As with all Magic School Bus books, each page is chock full of activity. It can be hard for younger kids to stay engaged with such a complex book, so use this book with a small group of older kids.

Activities

1. Make an octopus from a paper towel or toilet paper roll. Decorate the roll with markers and add some eyes. Then cut strips into the bottom half of the roll and curl the strips around a pencil. More instructions can be found here: http://www.freekidscrafts.com/recycled_sea_life_creatures-e192.html.



2. Make a jellyfish in a bottle. Use a sheet of plastic from a translucent grocery bag (produce bags work great) to create a floating jellyfish. Pull the center to create a head, and tie it up. Make slits in the remaining part to make the tentacles. Add some water to the head so it will sink. Fill a clear bottle with water, and add some blue food coloring. Add the jellyfish, and screw on the top. Flip the bottle to watch it float. For more instructions, with pictures: http://bhoomplay.wordpress.com/2011/09/09/diy_jellyfish_eng/.

3. Make a jellyfish out of a paper bowl. Attach ribbons attached to the bowl's inside.
4. Play an ocean guessing game. Take turns touch (blindfolded when appropriate), guessing items related to the ocean by sight, taste, sound and touch.
 - Natural sea sponge (sight/touch)
 - Seagulls sound (sound)
 - Ocean waves sound (sound)
 - Sea shells (touch)
 - Sand (touch)
 - Salt water (taste)
 - Seaweed (i.e., Japanese nori) (taste)



5. Make paper-plate aquariums. This simple aquarium diorama is made from two paper plates, construction paper and cellophane. Instructions can be found at <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/diorama/aquarium/>. Kids can cut out the fish and other sea creatures while adults prepare the dioramas.



Conversation Starters

1. Why do some animals live near the top of the water and others live deep down?
2. Why do some animals live in coral reefs or anemones?
3. All animals have different ways of defending themselves. What are some ways that ocean animals defend themselves?
4. Do you have a favorite ocean animal? Explain your choice.