



What Kind of Water Do Ocean Animals Drink?

Suggested Grade: Pre-K or Kindergarten

Materials

- Rock salt
- Fresh water
- Clear plastic bin
- White construction paper
- Paint brushes
- Salt water mixture
 - Warm water
 - Salt
 - Food Coloring

Measurable Objectives

- Students will be able to explain why the ocean is salty.
- Students will create a salty sea creature.

Anticipatory Set

- Have your easel or large note pad set up in front of the children.
- Ask your students what they know about ocean creatures.
- Ask them questions like, “What do they eat?” “Where do they live?” and “What kind of water do they drink?” to get them thinking.
- Using the last question, “What kind of water do they drink?” to lead into explaining that fish in the ocean drink salt water.
- Ask your students if they have ever had a drink of salt water, and if it tastes different than normal water.
- Have two cups ready for each child, one with salt water and one with fresh water.
- Have your students try the fresh water first, and then try the salt water and tell you what they thought of it.
- Discuss how fish that live in streams, lakes, ponds, and fish tanks all drink fresh water, but fish that live in the ocean drink salt water.

Instructional Input

Prior knowledge: None required

Materials: Listed above

Procedure:



1. Explain to your students that you are going to do an experiment.
2. Tell them that you are going to show them why ocean water is salty.
3. Have a student put the rock salt into the strainer.
4. Have another student hold the strainer over a clear plastic bin.
5. While the student is holding the strainer, pour water over the rock salt.
6. Discuss with the children how the fresh water you just poured out of your cup has dissolved parts of the rock salt and taken it with it into the plastic bin.
7. Have students taste the water sample (using a finger).
8. Explain to your students that you are now going to have daily checks to see what happens to the water in the plastic bin.

During the next week

1. Bring your bin back in front of the students.
2. Ask them to tell you what they see.
3. Explain to them that over time, water is evaporated. Define evaporation and make sure they understand.
4. Explain to them that evaporation is why no water is left in the bin, but all the salt is still there.
5. Repeat this process over the next 3 or 4 days.
6. Observe that there is more and more salt left behind each time.
7. Have students go to their seats, and explain that they will be making a salty sea creature.
8. Place white paper in front of each child.
9. Fill bowls with your salt-water mixture. (Add food coloring to bowls to make different colors).
10. Have children paint pictures of sea creatures, or to create their own sea creatures and their surroundings.
11. Once the salt-water mixture dries, have the children tell you what they think happened to their pictures.
12. Discuss their ideas.
13. Explain to them that the water evaporated and the salt remained just like in the experiment they did earlier.
14. Hang pictures around the classroom.

**Modeling:**

Observation of evaporation process

Check for Understanding:

- Check for understanding of evaporation process
- Check for understanding of why ocean water is salty.

Guided Practice:

- Experiment in anticipatory set
- Discussion of evaporation process

Independent Practice:

- Painting with salt water mixture
- Observation of evaporation process throughout free play

Closure:

- Discussion of evaporation process
- Ask the children to explain to you why the sea is salty.

Evaluation:

After discussing with the children what they learned, if they can tell you why the sea is salty, then they understand the concept.

Lesson plan compiled by Suzanne Johnson, an Earth Team Volunteer and Early Childhood Education student at Missouri State University, Springfield, MO.

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