



BEACH BUCKET SCAVENGER HUNT

This lesson plan developed by:



Overview:

Beaches have many components, including non-living (rock, sand, shells, skeletons), living (beach hoppers, sand crabs, worms, clams, seaweed), and manmade (plastic, glass, metal) items. Take a beach anywhere with your custom-made beach bucket. Use the worksheet provided for a quick lesson on beach ecology.

Materials:

Per small group (2 to 4 students):

- Shoe-box size container ("bucket") with snap-on lid
- Enough sand to fill "bucket" 2 inches deep
- 5-6 photos of beaches from old magazines or calendars
- 3-4 items from plants: driftwood, twigs, leaves, dried seaweed, etc.
- 3-4 items from animals: shells, crab exoskeletons, fish bones, sea urchin tests, etc.
- 3-4 items from humans: bottle tops, soda rings, small plastic bottles or plastic bags
- "What's in My Sand?" worksheet for each student
- Pencil for each student

Set-up Prior to Activity

Preassemble the beach buckets or have the students collect items from a local beach or coastline.

Duration:

30 minutes

Physical Activity:

Moderate

Beach Bucket Scavenger Hunt (cont.)

Activity:

1. Gather students on the sand, at a grassy area or at tables. "Beach Bucket Scavenger Hunt" can be paired with "A Sand Story."
2. Begin the activity with a verbal "brainstorm" to assess prior knowledge. (If you have a whiteboard, you can make a list of the answers.) Ask students guiding questions such as:
 - Who has been to a sandy beach?
 - What have you found on the beach?
 - Has everything you have found on the beach come from nature?
 - What items were manmade?
 - How did it make you feel to find plastic or other trash on the beach?
3. Tell students that this activity explores sandy beach ecology, that is what lives on the beach and what may harm the animals that live there.
4. If the buckets are not premade, then ask students to go on a scavenger hunt to find items on the sandy beach you are visiting. You may want to put a few limits on what they can pick up; such as no cigarette butts, medical debris (syringes), or person hygiene items. Also if jellyfish are common, students should not touch them.
5. Ask students to bring back eight to ten items and a handful of sand. Place the sand, then the items in their bucket (2 to 4 students per bucket).
6. Distribute worksheet. Ask students to explore and sort what they found.

Discussion:

1. Did they find any seaweed? Any trash? Any animal exoskeletons or bones? Have students share what they found in their bucket with others.
2. Begin a discussion on what students consider to be a healthy beach? Is there anything in their bucket that might be considered a pollutant? Why?
3. If you are returning items to the beach after the lesson, please ask students to dispose of the trash correctly.

Ocean Literacy Principles:

Ocean literacy is an understanding of the ocean's influence on us, and our impact on the ocean. There are seven [Ocean Literacy Essential Principles](#) that all people of our blue planet should have an opportunity to learn and understand. This activity touches upon the following Essential Principles:

2. The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth
6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected
7. The ocean is largely unexplored

Further Your Impact with Sailors for the Sea Powered by Oceana:

As sailors and water-lovers, you are among the first to notice changes to our seas such as fewer marine animals, more pollution and damaged marine habitat. Through our Green Boating initiative, Sailors for the Sea Powered by Oceana provides opportunities for you and your

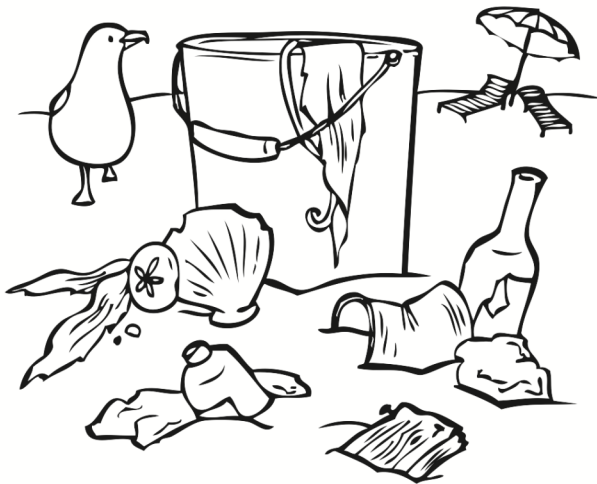
Beach Bucket Scavenger Hunt (cont.)

community to address pressing ocean health issues. As a Green Boater, you will be provided with the information, resources and access to combat marine plastic pollution, prevent habitat destruction, source responsible seafood and protect marine animals. From demanding plastic-free alternatives to choosing sustainable seafood, your voice and actions are an important part of restoring the abundance of our oceans and protecting marine habitats. [Join our growing Green Boating Community today.](#)

Beach Bucket Scavenger Hunt (cont.)

What's in My Sand?

Many things, natural and man-made, make up the sand on our beaches. Choose an object from the beach bucket that came from a plant, human and animal, and draw them below.



Plant

Human

Animal