



BEACH SCULPTURES

This lesson plan developed by:



Marine
Biological
Association

Overview:

Students use their creative side to build a beach sculpture out of items found along the coast including natural objects and marine debris. Through this activity students will learn about exploring, beach ecology, marine debris and how to collaborate to create a piece of art.



Materials:

- Any beach or open coastal space
- Seashore items: shells, stones, beach litter (except for unsanitary items and sharps), driftwood and rope
- Basic digging tools and buckets (optional)

Duration:

30-90 minutes

Physical Activity:

Moderate

Beach Sculptures (cont.)

Background:

You don't need a clean sandy beach to make beach sculptures or beach drawings. Beach sculptures can be made at any scale from very small intricate pieces to large group pieces. Useful items include shells, stones, beach litter (except for unsanitary items and sharps), driftwood and rope. You may wish to set ground rules at the start about what can be used. Nothing that is living should be used (ex. seaweed attached to rocks).

Activity:

1. Divide a large group into smaller teams or all work together if you have space.
2. Decide on a theme. For example, a sea creature (real or imaginary). Another idea is to ask children to invent their own sea creature, adapted to live on shore.
3. Set a time limit and encourage teamwork, perhaps suggesting that roles are assigned in the team (gatherers, designers, builders, etc).

Discussion:

1. When the sculptures are completed, pretend that the whole group is visiting an art gallery and walk to each sculpture, stopping at each while groups explain a little about their sculpture and answer questions about their work.
2. Discuss the materials students used for their sculptures, once living, non-living or human-created.
3. Take photos of the artists with their work before the tide "wipes the canvas clean".
4. It is also a great opportunity to discuss beach litter, removing any that has been used in artwork to dispose of sensibly.
5. This beach art activity can be run with a scavenger hunt, using the finds from the hunt in the beach sculptures.



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](https://www.sailorsforthesea.org/KELP) that all people of our blue planet should

Beach Sculptures (cont.)

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
- 5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems
- 6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected

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 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.](#)