



EXPLORE THE SHORE

This lesson plan developed by:



Overview:

Help students explore their natural surroundings and learn about the local ecosystem with ID books for shells, birds and seaweeds. Students can participate in a scavenger hunt and try to identify items they find.



Materials:

- The Seaside Naturalist - Deborah A. Coulombe
- Local ID books for shells, birds, seaweeds, etc (optional)
- One or two sheets of paper per student
- Clipboards (optional)
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Access to a beach or shoreline

Duration:

30-60 minutes

Physical Activity:

Moderate

Explore the Shore (cont.)

Activity:

Part 1: Introduction to the Shoreline

Begin the activity with a verbal “brainstorm” about what type of items may be found along the shoreline. If you have a whiteboard, make a list. Are the items living? Non-living? This activity helps students connect with nature and learn how to identify items found along the shoreline.

Part 2: Explore and Identify

1. As a group, walk along the shoreline and use The Seaside Naturalist or other ID books to help identify items found along the beach.
2. Once students understand how to find and identify items, have them work in small groups to explore the shoreline.
3. Have the students choose two items they identified on the beach and draw them on a sheet of paper.
4. Have the students list three questions about each item that they want to learn more about.
5. Have a group discussion about the items and questions.

Part 3: Scavenger Hunt

1. After the students have explored the shoreline and learned how to identify different items, tell them that they will be going on a scavenger hunt (in pairs or small groups) for the following items:
 - One shell
 - One seaweed
 - One crab shell
 - Viewing of one bird
 - One manmade object
2. Once they have retrieved (or viewed) all of the items, have them use the books to determine the identity of each item.



Discussion:

As a group, discuss the following questions:

- What items that you found on the beach surprised you the most?
- Were certain items only found in specific places (i.e. intertidal)?
- What item do you want to learn more about?
- Are there ways that we can protect marine life and our shorelines?

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.oceanliteracyprinciples.org/) that all people of our blue planet should have an opportunity to learn and understand. This activity touches upon the following Essential

Explore the Shore (cont.)

Principles:

4. The ocean made Earth habitable
5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems
6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected

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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.](#)