## Explorer Education Programme

Lesson Plan: Sea Animals and Numbers
Class: Junior Infants / Senior Infants
Strands: Early Mathematical Activities and Number


Strand Units: Classifying, Matching, Counting, Comparing and Ordering, Analysis of number

## TITLE: SEA ANIMALS AND NUMBERS

## Aim / Description:

The aim of this lesson plan is to introduce infants to numbers by classifying, matching, comparing and ordering objects.

Infants can also learn to count and analyse numbers by combining, partitioning and using numeration.

By using sets of sea animals, such as limpets, dog whelks, and periwinkles students can also learn about animals that live in the sea around Ireland. For more information on sea animals and the seashore see teaching materials found at www.explorers.ie

## Materials:

- Worksheets (following the lesson plan)
- Shells collected from the beach (alternatively use different colour counters that you have in the classroom)


## Activity:

## CLASSIFICATION

- Step 1. Provide a collection of different sea shells to each student. The students can classify each shell by observing it and noting its colour.


## MATCHING, COMPARING AND ORDERING

- Step 2. Mix the types of shells up and ask the students to communicate and express what each shell is by placing them into sets, matching, comparing and ordering each species.


## COUNTING

- Step 3. Give each child a set of shells where all ten are the same. Ask the children to count them 1-10, pushing aside while counting. Use stages 1-3, 1-5, 1-7 and finally 1-10.

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## ANALYSIS OF NUMBERS:

- Step 4. Give each child a mixture of different species of shells 1-10 from different sets. Ask the children to count them 1-10, pushing aside and partitioning the shells into their matching groups while counting.
- Step 5. Provide the Worksheets to each student and ask the students to answer the questions 1-5.


## Outcome / Objective:

The children in the class should have developed an understanding of early mathematical activities using numbers for:

- Classifying
- Matching
- Comparing
- Ordering
- Counting
- Comparing and ordering
- Analysis of numbers (combining, partitioning, numeration).

The children in the class should have developed skills in the following:

- Applying and problem solving
- Communication and expression
- Reasoning and Implementing
- Understanding and recalling


## Explorer Education Programme

Worksheet: Sea Animals and Numbers

Question: How many Shells are there? (Write in the number in the box provided $\square$

|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\square$ <br> Dog Whelks |  |
| Limpets |  |
| $\square$ <br> Periwinkles |  |
| $\square$ <br> Flat Periwinkles |  |


| Limpets |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Dog Whelks |  |
| $\square$ <br> Periwinkles |  |
| Limpets |  |
| Flat |  |

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Worksheet: Sea Animals and Numbers

| Question: Which group has more shells? (tick the box) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Q. 7 | Limpets | Limpets |
| Q. 8 | Dog whelks $\square$ | Dog whelks $\square$ |
| Q. 9 | Flat Periwinkle $\square$ | Flat Periwinkle $\square$ |
| Q. 10 | Periwinkle $\square$ | Periwinkle |

