

# **Explorers Education Programme**

	Fifth Class and Sixth Class	Visual Arts
<b>Strand</b> Clay	Strand Unit Developing form in clay, Looking and Responding.	

#### Title

Constructing a Clay Ocean Diorama showing the effects of Marine Pollution.

# Objective(s)

The aim of the lesson plan is for children to be enabled to explore and discover the possibilities of clay as a medium for imaginative expression. They will construct a clay ocean diorama showing the effects of marine pollution. The children will respond to the clay dioramas created in the class by talking about his/her work, as well as the work of other children.

### **Skills Required**

Working collaboratively, fine motor skills, problem solving skills, cutting/ pasting and organisational skills.

## Learning objectives

The child should be enabled to:

Plan and create a shoe box diorama – theme-"Underwater World" using modelling clay to sculpt the features on the ocean floor.

Complete the scene by introducing marine habitats including seaweeds and corals as well as marine life.

Include indicators of pollution on the ocean floor.

Look at and talk about his/her work, the work of other children.

### Learning activities

### Talk and Discussion:

Discuss the concept of a diorama. Examine images of the ocean floor; discuss forms, shapes and layout.

### Students' ideas:

Recall and transfer learning from SESE-Geography.

### Pair/group work /Hands on approach:

Prepare the shoe box - background, inside the box reflecting the change from sea to land to sky. Using modeling clay, depict the sea floor and sculpt relevant topographical features such as steep cliffs for the continental shelf, trenches and underwater mountains and a mid-ocean rift.

#### Talk and Discussion:

Discuss what lives in the ocean and the marine ecosystem with your students. Discuss the concept of marine pollution and the effects it has on the water, marine life and marine habitats. Ask your students to think of some of the types of



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pollution that might be found in the ocean. Show students the stimulus video by Marlisco entitled "Sources and impacts of Marine Litter" by Jane Lee and "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch", which are both available on Vimeo. Ask the students how they think marine litter might affect humans, and animal and plant life. Show them selection of materials and ask them to choose a number of small items to include as indicates of marine litter/pollution in their ocean diorama.

### Looking and responding

Ask students to look and respond to his/ her own work and the work of the other children in the class.

#### Resources

Internet access to locate:

Images of the ocean floor.

Also refer to www.infomar.ie for bathymetry 3D maps of Ireland's inshore marine territory.

Marlisco Video entitled "Sources and impacts of Marine Litter" by Jane Lee available to download on Vimeo.

"The Great Pacific Garbage Patch" available to download on Vimeo.

Shoe box

Clay, paint, glue

Sand small rocks, dried seaweed, shells

Plastic plants for greenery

Items selected as evidence of pollution – plastic, polystyrene, aluminium, etc.



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### Differentiation

Higher and Lower order questioning. Differentiate group activities and roles to account of individual needs, by support, task. Mixed ability pairing.

### Assessment

Teacher observation, pupil work samples, Oral feedback

## **Linkage and Integration**

Geography: Ask students to research the "Real Map of Ireland" and levels in the ocean found around Ireland.

Science: Ask students to discuss how marine litter takes to biodegrade. Graph the results.

English: Writing to Socialise: Write a letter to the local council explaining the need for more rubbish bins near our waterways and beaches. Ask students to take photos of their diorama to include with their letter.