



Date	Class Level (T2) Fifth and sixth class	Subject Irish
Strand Oral language, reading, writing		Strand Unit Understanding the language, using the language
Theme School		
Title My school becomes a deep sea aquarium		
Objectives The children using their imagination, knowledge and experiences, will remodel their school (or classroom) into a giant imaginary deep sea aquarium by participating in oral language, reading and writing activities.		
Skills required The children should have a good understanding of sentence structures in Irish.		
<p><u>Learning Objectives:</u></p> <p><i>The children will be enabled to:</i></p> <p>Learn and use the new vocabulary and phrases that are related to saltwater aquariums.</p> <p>Experience a classroom environment that respects the written word and values good writing efforts.</p> <p>To appropriately remodel their school or classroom as a saltwater aquarium.</p>	<p><u>Learning Activities:</u></p> <p>Repetition</p> <p>The teacher will put pictures of the animals that live in the ocean that can be found in large aquariums on the white board with their names written beside them. The animals may include sharks, dolphins, seals, whales, giant squid, ray, salmon, cod, eels, starfish, spider crabs, octopi, turtle, fish, corals and sponges, giant eel, jelly fish etc.</p> <p>The children will read the names of the animals out loud.</p> <p>Next, the teacher will take down the names of the animals and the children will have to say the names without any help.</p> <p>The teacher will teach other words that are related to the children's deep sea school aquarium. Vocabulary such as aquarium, saltwater, fish food, temperature, thermometer, filter, air pump, rocks, sand, light, net, buckets.</p>	



Remodelling the school (classroom)

In pairs, the teacher will hand out a map of the school or get the children to draw a “bird’s eye view” of the school (classroom) on a large sheet.

The children must decide the different areas of a deep sea aquarium they are going to have. They then need to decide where in the school (classroom) the animals are going to be located.

The teacher should encourage problem solving:

- Sharks, dolphins and whales need a lot of open space to swim around.
- Sharks also need food but you do not want them to eat all the smaller fish at once.
- Turtles needs to be able to come up to land to breathe.
- Crabs like to hide under rocks and seaweed.
- Starfish like to stick to objects.

Once they have their remodelling drawn, they should label the map and justify (if they can) the placing of animals.

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The teacher will put the pictures of the animals that are in the aquarium on the white board. The class will close their eyes. The teacher will take one picture down from the white board. The class have to guess which one has gone missing. Then, children will get the opportunity to take a picture down from the board. This activity will be done a few times.



	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pictures of the new words ● The new words written on a card ● Dictionary ● Copy book <p>Good Website</p> <p>See www.explorers.ie , teacher’s resources section for teachers planning guide for saltwater aquariums and species information book, which included pictures and information of common small aquarium species.</p> <p>See national and world aquarium websites to see what type of animals they have.</p>
<u>Differentiation</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Higher and lower order questions ● Differentiate group activities and group roles so the individual abilities can be taken into account through the activities and tasks. ● Mixed-abilities grouping during group work ● Sentences can be written on the board with gaps if the children are struggling 	
<u>Assessment</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher questioning and teacher observation ● The teacher can read the instructions so to assess their student’s ability in writing in Irish and their understanding of how fish in an aquarium should be cared for. 	
<u>Linkage and integration</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Science – The children will be learning about different marine animals.</i> ● <i>Explorers Education Programme – As part of this programme, aquariums are given to schools all over the country. The children can learn in Irish the names of the fish in the aquarium and how they should be looked after.</i> 	