



Explorers Education Programme

Date	Class Level Fifth and sixth class	Subject Science
Strand Living things		Strand Unit Plant and animal life
Title A Whale's Tale – Meeting Marine Animals around the World		
Objectives: The aim of the lesson is to enable children to recognise that there is a great diversity of animals in the ocean. The children will learn about the characteristics of a variety of marine animals and their habitats from different regions and ocean environments around the world. They will also learn about marine pollution affecting the animals that live in the ocean. Note: This lesson plan can be used with the drama lesson plan: A Whale's Tale – Adventures of living in the Ocean.		
Skills Required: The child will be enabled to use their questioning, predicting and analysing skills as well as their recording, researching and communication skills to develop their understanding of and knowledge of marine life around the world.		
<p>Learning Objectives:</p> <p><i>The child will be enabled to:</i> Work in groups so to gather and communicate information about a marine animal that was assigned to them by the teacher.</p> <p>Develop an increasing awareness of marine animals from wider environments by researching and recording information about them.</p> <p>Learn about marine animals in the Atlantic Ocean and other locations around the world so that they can begin to compare and contrast them from one another.</p> <p>This lesson plan can be conducted over several periods and / or completed as homework. The Whales Tale – drama lesson plan is also available for pupils to demonstrate</p>	<p>Learning Activities:</p> <p>Teacher Directed Approach: The teacher will begin the lesson by telling the class about how the ocean has the greatest diversity of life on Earth. The ocean provides a place to live for millions of animals. The ocean has freezing polar regions to the warm waters of the tropics, underwater volcanoes, deep sea hydrothermal vents to shallow seagrass beds. The oceans contain thousands of species ranging from the smallest microscopic zooplankton to the largest mammals on earth. Scientists say there are more plant and animal life found in the ocean than on land. It is estimated that for every species of marine life we know of, at least another three are yet to be discovered.</p> <p>The children are to imagine they are embarking on a journey around the world discovering marine animals from the different oceans and habitats.</p> <p>Using a world map, the teacher and</p>	



what they have learned through drama activities.

children will identify the different ocean names around the world and what continent / countries they know:

- Pacific Ocean
- Atlantic Ocean
- Indian Ocean
- Southern Ocean
- Arctic Ocean

Placing a heading of the different ocean names on the board the teacher and the children will brainstorm together on the different marine animals they might encounter while on his/her journey around the world.

The teacher will write the classes suggestions on the board.

Prompt questions / ICT research:

- What lives in the ocean?
- What is the largest animal in the world?
- What is the most dangerous animal in the ocean?
- What are names of marine mammals?
- What are the oceans creepiest or strangest animals?
- What the oceans' prettiest animal?
- What threats does each of the animals face?
- What is the Garbage Patches in the ocean?
- What are micro-plastics
- What is ghost gear in the ocean?
- Are any of the animals endangered – if so why?

Use of ICT and the library

The teacher/children will assign one marine animal per group. Some examples of animals recommended include:

- Blue whale



- Atlantic salmon
- Atlantic Cod
- Leatherback Turtle
- Giant Squid
- Albatross
- Orange Roughy
- Monk fish
- Great White Shark
- Jellyfish
- Common Seal
- Polar bear
- Penguins
- Corals
- Mackerel
- Starfish

Students should be encouraged to think about marine animals at different depths of the ocean. Different marine animals should be assigned to each group that come from a variety of different depths and locations in the ocean.

Each group will receive a worksheet. The worksheet outlines the relevant information and facts about their marine animal that the children should gather; Name, Location, Appearance, Habitat and diet.

The children can use computers, or books to gather the information needed. The teacher/children can choose to assign the worksheet as homework and/or classwork.

Talk and Discussion:

The class will engage in a closed discussion firstly amongst their groups about the species they have researched.

An open class discussion will then take place. Each group should be provided with the opportunity to share with the rest of the class what they have learnt about their marine animal.



	<p>The teacher should ask the class questions that will encourage students to compare and contrast the different marine species that groups have researched.</p>
	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children’s Encyclopedia Ocean – 500 illustrated facts.• Google / YouTube online marine wildlife documentaries about the ocean e.g. BBC the wildest ocean on earth: Atlantic ocean; National geographic - Sea Monsters Ocean Documentary - BBC wildlife animal documentary• Good Websites with information on marine animals include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• www.explorers.ie see species information book for information about some common seashore species.• National Aquarium of Ireland, see animal profiles page• Arkive website, use search option to find information about your animals.• The World Register of Marine Species – good for information about classification• Marine species identification portal – good search facility. Click on the species name to open up an information box with information about your species.• Irish Whale and Dolphin Group Website• Marine Bio Species Database – great website with lots of information.• Worksheets with pictures of marine animals• Computers/phones/books



Differentiation

- **Questioning** – The teacher will ask higher and lower order questions depending on the ability of the child.
- **Mixed-ability grouping** – The teacher will ensure that the groups are created so that they account for the individual needs of all children in the classroom.

Assessment

- **Teacher questioning** – By asking questions throughout the lesson, the teacher will be able to assess what knowledge the class has gained.
- **Teacher observation** – The teacher will observe the class as they are participating in the group work. The teacher will make sure that the groups are recording relevant information about their marine animal.
- **Teacher designed task** – Each group will complete a worksheet about their marine animal so that the teacher can easily examine what information and facts they have recorded.
- **Open discussion of the research they gathered** – The teacher will invite each group to share with the class the information they recorded for their fish/mammal. This will allow the teacher to assess what knowledge they have gained from the lesson.

Linkage and Integration

- **Geography** – Children are learning about different marine animals and their habitats from all over the world.
- **Drama** – This lesson plan can be used with the drama lesson plan: A Whale's Tale – Adventures of living in the Ocean. The children are given the opportunity to become the marine animal they researched creating a play about the adventures of living in the ocean.



Our Marine Animal Worksheet

[Insert or draw a picture of animal here]

Name of marine animal: _____

Classification: (Research online your animal classification e.g. search Animal Diversity Web and the name of your animal. Now write out its classification)

Kingdom: _____

Phylum: _____

Class: _____

Order: _____

Family: _____

Genus: _____

Species: _____

Appearance: (Colour, texture, size, etc.)

Ocean: (Name of the ocean I am likely to be found in) _____

Country / Continent: (Name of the country or continent that I live near and the areas that I migrate through over the year)



Our Marine Animal Worksheet

Depth of the ocean: (What depth in the ocean do I normally live?)

Habitat: (What type of habitat do I like to live in? / Do I stay in one place / why ?)

Diet: (What do I like to eat?)

Threats/ Human Impacts: (What likes to eat me? / What other threats do I have to deal with?
e.g. other animals, humans, pollution, weather etc?)

Survival: (What do I do to survive?)

Additional Information: (Is there anything unusual about me? / Do I make any sounds? / What
animals do I like to live with or like to live with me?)
