



## Lesson Plan: EXPLORERS CLASSROOM AQUARIUM - WRITING BOOK

Class: 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class

Subject: English

Strand: Oral Language / Writing

Strand Unit: Receptiveness to language, Competence and confidence in using language, Developing cognitive abilities through language. Emotional and imaginative development through language

### Aim / Learning Objective:

Students will become familiar with the Irish and English names of the animals that live on the Irish Seashore by writing about the animals that live in their Explorers aquarium. They will also be able to develop their imagination, writing a story about a “new” species they have never seen before.

### Skills:

Students will have developed questioning and predicting skills as well as the following:

- Developing receptiveness to language, reading, listening and understanding.
- Writing, spelling, grammar, drafting, revising and editing.
- Developing imagination, confidence in using oral language and creative skills.
- Use of dictionaries and thesauruses to extend and develop vocabulary and spelling.

### Materials:

- Explorers Aquarium stocked with a selection of seashore animals. \*If the classroom doesn't have an aquarium in the class or all of the animals listed on the worksheet are not in the aquarium, use pictures and video footage of seashore species to discuss the types of animals found on the seashore.
- Explorers Seashore PowerPoint presentation → explorer's material available at [www.explorers.ie](http://www.explorers.ie)
- Explorers Species Information Booklet
- Explorers Anecdotes about the Seashore
- Seashore species Identification keys (available from libraries and bookstores)
- Explorers Aquarium Writing Book - Worksheet

### Activity:

1. Ask the students to write the English name of each animal in their writing book – matching it up with the Irish name provided.
2. Draw a creative picture of the animal emphasising features that the students like about the species.
3. Use the following questions and ask the students to write a description about each animal in the Explorers Aquarium:
  - What type of species is the animal?
  - What does the animal look like? What features does the animal have? Does the animal have legs? Does it have eyes? Does it have scales? Does it have a shell? Does it have tentacles? etc
  - What colour is the animal? Does it use its colour to camouflage itself?
  - What size is the animal?
  - What type of habitat does it live in? What part of the habitat would you find the animal? (under rocks, sand or does it swim around) etc.
  - Where on the seashore would you find the animal? How does it move?
  - Is it a predator or scavenger? What does it eat? How does it get its food? How does it digest its food?
4. Ask the students to create a “New” seashore animal that no one has ever seen before – it could be a combination of all the species morphed together. Students should draw a picture of the seashore animal and write a short story about it.



**Instructions:**

Write the English name of the species matching it up with its Irish name listed below.

Provide a description about each animal explaining what type of species it is, what it looks like (colour, size etc), what type of habitat does it live in, what does it eat etc. Draw a creative picture of the species.

Irish Name: Crosóg mhara  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description:  
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Irish Name: Bundún coirníneach  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description:  
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Irish Name: Faocha ghliomaigh  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description:  
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Irish Name: Leathóg  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description:  
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Irish Name: Ceanruán  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description:  
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Irish Name: Sleamhnóg  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description:  
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Irish Name: Mac siobháin  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description:  
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Irish Name: Ribe róibéis (cloichéan)  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description:  
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Irish Name: Diúilicín  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description:  
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Irish Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description:  
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Irish Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Irish Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
English Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Design you own seashore animal that might live on your local beach – that no one has ever seen before.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a seashore animal.