

Ocean/Beach Read-Aloud

Theme: Ocean/Beach

Site: ARHA

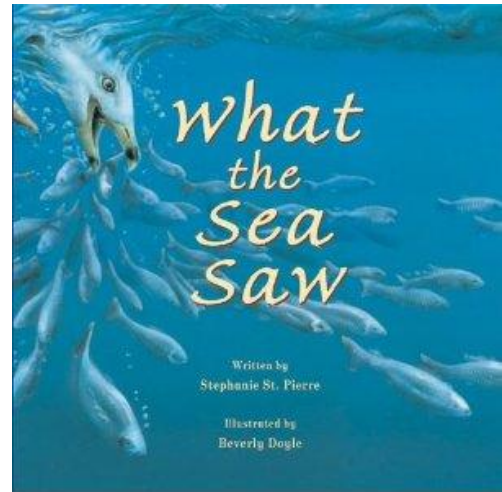
Team: 3

Facilitator: Kim Gilliam

Age range of kids (approximate): Ages 4 to 8

Books read:

- *What the Sea Saw* by Stephanie St. Pierre
- *Ocean Alphabet Book* by Jerry Pallotta
- *Atlantic* by G. Brian Karas



Description of activity (including supplies needed):

Set the beach scene by sitting on beach towels and spraying the kids with a bit of sun tan lotion. Asked the kids who had been to the beach, what types of activities you do at the beach (swim, build sandcastles, etc.) and what types of animals you find in the ocean.

- Beach Towels
- Spray Sun Tan Lotion

Read *What the Sea Saw* to the large group, with beautiful pictures that showcased the whole ocean ecosystem, then split into small group reading for 20 minutes.

- **Additional book suggestions:** *Lottie's New Beach Towel* by Petra Mathers--Ages 3 to 8; *Flotsam* by David Wiesner--Ages 4 to 8; *Beachcombing: Exploring the Seashore* by Jim Aronsky--Ages 4 to 12

For the 30 minutes worth of activities, wanted to engage all of the kids senses. Split into three groups rotating through the following activities for 10 minutes each:

Activity #1: Making a paper-plate aquarium – Simple aquarium diorama made from two paper plates, construction paper and cellophane. Instructions can be found at <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/diorama/aquarium/>. Kids cut out fish, starfish, kelp, coral, etc to decorate the seascape (we made the front plate with the cellophane beforehand so the kids just had to draw and cut out the shapes, provided stencils for younger kids).

- Paper plates
- Cellophane
- Construction paper
- Scissors



- Stencils

Activity #2: Ocean guessing game –Kids took turns guessing items related to the ocean by sight, taste, sound and touch (blindfolded when appropriate).

- Natural sea sponge (sight/touch)
- Seagulls sound (sound)
- Ocean waves sound (sound)
- Sea shells (touch)
- Sand (touch)
- Salt water (taste)
- Sea weed (i.e. Japanese nori) (taste)

Activity #3: Gone fishing – Used simple fishing rods with a paper clip on the end of the string to fish for paper fish with small magnetic strips attached. Had the kids wear colorful fishing visors.

- Cardboard box lined with blue paper
- Fish cut-outs with magnetic strips
- Wooden rods with string and paper clip
- Colorful visors



Other/Comments: Lots of activity got the kids moving and engaged in the topic. They couldn't wait to tell their parents what they had done during the Read-Aloud that day!