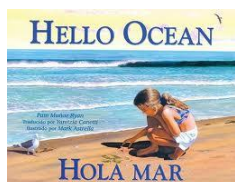




Beach Read-Aloud Outline

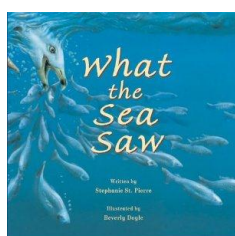
Bring the beach to your Read-Aloud! Set the mood by setting out beach towels to sit on and by lathering up with sunscreen. It will make the room smell like summer. The following books capture the sights, sounds, smells and textures of a day at the beach.



Hello, Ocean / Hola Mar by Pam Munoz Ryan

Ages 4 and up

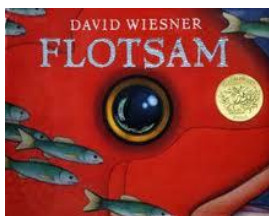
Glorious illustrations of water, sun and sky accompany brief verses. The text guides the reader through all the senses: sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. Each page is in English and Spanish.



What the Sea Saw by Stephanie St. Pierre

Ages 4 and up

Beautiful pictures showcase the ocean ecosystem, giving kids a well-rounded understanding of what is under the ocean's surface.



Flotsam by David Wiesner

Ages 5 and up

This Caldecott Medal winner is a wordless wonder. A day at the beach launches the reader into a wildly imaginative exploration of the mysteries of the deep. A boy goes to the beach equipped to collect and examine flotsam -- anything floating that has been washed ashore. A true mystery unfolds when he finds a barnacle-encrusted underwater camera.

More beach books

Over in the Ocean: In the Coral Reef by Marianne Berkes (Ages 3 to 6)

Kids will sing, clap and count their way among puffer fish that puff, and grunt fish that grunt.

Beach Day by Karen Roosa (Ages 4 and up)

This book is a captivating introduction to the beach for young children.

The Seashore Book by Charlotte Zolotow (Ages 4 and up)

A boy has never seen the beach before so his mother describes it to him using all of the senses.

What Lives in a Shell? by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld (Ages 4 and up)

Find out about the different animals that live in shells.

Beachcombing: Exploring the Seashore by Jim Arnosky (Ages 4 to 12)

This book dedicates a page spread to each of the beach's unique offerings including shells, crabs, coral and more.

Seashells by the Seashore by Marianne Berkes (Ages 5 to 9)

Counting from one to 12, a child collects and identifies shells for her grandmother.

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold (Ages 7 and up)

Eight-year-old Cassie and her family go to their Harlem rooftop to enjoy summer evenings. They call it their "tar beach." Cassie imagines herself flying over New York City.

Activities

1. Bring a bucket of sand in a tub and make a sandbox (outdoors if possible). What happens if you add water to the sand? Can the kids make a castle or fortress with damp sand?

2. Use a collection of shells to sort, describe by shape, color, size, pattern, etc. To identify the shells, use a site like <http://www.seashells.org/alltheseashells.html> with pictures and descriptions of many kinds of shells.

3. Make paper-plate aquariums. This simple aquarium diorama is made from two paper plates, construction paper and cellophane. Instructions can be found at <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/diorama/aquarium/>. Kids can cut out the fish and other sea creatures while adults prepare the dioramas.



4. Play an ocean guessing game. Kids take 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)
- Seaweed (i.e. Japanese nori) (taste)

Conversation Starters

Have you ever been to the beach? Which one?

What would you want to see or do most at the beach?

Some beaches are sandy and others are rocky. Which one do you think you'd prefer?

Would you want to go in the water? Up to your knees? What about all the way underneath?

Lots of people like to surf at the beach. What do you need to go surfing?

How would it be different to go fishing at the ocean than at a lake?