

## **Understanding Your Theme Unit**

The Under the Sea theme unit includes a variety of fun and engaging activities to use during circle, centers, independent work and group activity times. The focus of this theme unit includes:

- Ocean-themed Vocabulary Words and Concepts
- Art and Cooking Activities with an Ocean Theme
- Center and Independent Work Activities in Math
- · Center and Independent Work Activities in Reading
- · Center and Independent Work Activities in Writing
- Science Inquiry: Ocean Discovery and Experiments
- Learning in Groups
- Working With a Partner

Use this theme unit as part of a comprehensive behavioral curriculum (e.g., The STAR Program). All students will benefit from direct instruction focused on teaching essential skills in receptive and expressive language, academics and social/play skills. The activities in this theme unit can assist instructors with generalizing and expanding on skills students have learned in more structured teaching sessions. All activities provided throughout this theme unit address a wide-range of student skill levels.

## A Few Easy Steps for Successful Theme Unit Instruction



- 1. Follow the suggested *Monthly Calendar* for activities focusing on five senses themed vocabulary and concepts.
- 2. Introduce the theme unit concepts during *Circle and Group Activities*. Using the lessons provided, teach students important vocabulary and concepts that will be used in independent work.
- 3. *Independent Work* activities are provided for a wide range of student skill levels. Independent work activities are a follow-up to the concepts, vocabulary and ideas presented during circle and group activities
- 4. **Group Activities** incorporating art, cooking, games and science will introduce the concepts taught throughout this theme unit.

# **Student Learning Outcomes**

### Theme vocabulary:

- Words and Concepts for the Ocean and Ocean Environment
- Colors: Blue, Red, Orange, Green, Tan, Yellow

### **Exploring the Ocean:**

- Identify Animals Found in the Ocean
- Describe Animals in the Ocean
- Identify Recreational Activities at the Beach

### Reading:

- Letter Matching and Identification
- Phonics: Beginning Sounds
- Theme Vocabulary in Words and Sentences
- Theme Comprehension
- Phonemics: Rhyming
- Sight Words

### Math:

- Counting and One-to-One Correspondence
- Geometry
- Money
- Time

#### Writing:

- Color, Cut, Glue
- Trace, Copy and Write Words and Sentences
- Presentation of Ideas in Pictures and Writing

**Science Inquiry:** Collect, Describe, Observe, Explain and Investigate Using Ocean-themed Activities

**Social skills:** Turn-taking, Waiting, Sharing, Asking and Answering Questions, Commenting, Working in a Group



Sorting and Patterning

Adding and Subtracting

· Comparing and Classifying

Measurement-Standard and Non-standard

### Circle

The circle activities and visuals include icons for calendar, songs, song-books and five themed activities. Print and laminate items.

It is important to have a structured circle routine. View the Circle Routine ideas and visuals in the STAR Media Center. Once the circle routine and visual supports are in place, add more fun to your circle time by introducing new themes. Each theme unit includes circle song icons/books and activities.



NAME OF ACTIVITY/VISUAL SUPPORT	PRINTABLE FORMS
CALENDAR DATE ICONS  Icons for each day of the week to identify the date. Includes repeating patterns.	Calendar Icons (Sea Star, Shark, Crab)
SONG ICONS/SONG BOOKS  Support student participation by providing song choice icons and visual supports for each song.	Ocean Motion     Ocean Song
Use these activities to introduce the Fall Theme and teach key vocabulary and concepts.	<ul> <li>The Shark Under the Sea</li> <li>Who Has the Ocean Animal?</li> <li>Five Little Fishies</li> <li>Feed the Shark</li> <li>What Doesn't Belong?</li> </ul>
THEME RELATED VIDEOS  Use the following videos during circle to introduce the concepts taught in this theme unit.	See circle activities page for links to videos.
THEME VOCABULARY Introduce new vocabulary and concepts through written and visual supports.	Ocean Life: clam, coral, crab, dolphin, fish, jellyfish, lobster, octopus, sea gull, sea lion, seahorse, sea turtle, sea urchin, seaweed, seal, shark, shells, sea snail, sea star, stingray, whale, blue crab, great white shark  Ocean Environment: ocean, sand, waves  Ocean Fun: beach ball, hat, mermaid, pail and shovel, sand castle, sandals, sun umbrella, sunglasses, sunscreen, towel  Ocean Recreation: scuba diving, snorkeling, surfing, swimming  Ocean Travel: boat, sail boat, ship  Colors: blue, red, orange, green, tan, yellow  Shapes: circle, triangle, square, rectangle, diamond, oval, star, heart

## **Group Activities**

A variety of group activities are included that incorporate cooking, science, art, and games.

Small Group Activities are a great way to build a positive classroom climate and teach social interaction skills. Providing structure during these activities will create clear expectations for students and promote independence. Refer to the Small Group Activity routine ideas located in the STAR Media Center for additional ideas.



NAME OF ACTIVITY/VISUAL SUPPORT	PRINTABLE FORMS
<b>GAME: COLOR FISHING</b> Students enjoy fishing for a variety of colored fish.	Color Fishing
<b>GAME: UNDER THE SEA BINGO</b> Students play bingo while identifying sea life.	Under the Sea Bingo
GAME: OCEAN DIVING Students dive for sea related items.	Ocean Diving
ACTIVITY: WHAT DO YOU NEED AT THE BEACH? Students identify important items needed for a fun day at the beach.	What Do You Need at the Beach?
ART: OCTOPUS Students create an octopus and practice math skills.	Octopus
ART: SEA TURTLE Students assemble and paint a sea turtle using common materials.	Sea Turtle
ART: SEAHORSE PAINTING Students make a seahorse using shaving cream and paint.	Seahorse Painting
COOKING: JOLLY JELLYFISH Students make a jellyfish out of an English muffin.	Jolly Jellyfish Recipe
COOKING: SEA URCHIN PLAY DOUGH Students make play dough that is later used to create a sea creature.	Sea Urchin Play Dough Recipe
COOKING: BEACH FOOD Students cook a tasty snack using rice and fish crackers.	Beach Food Recipe
COOKING: PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLYFISH SANDWICH Students make fish-shaped sandwiches.	Peanut Butter and Jellyfish Sandwich Recipe
SCIENCE INQUIRY: FIVE SENSES OBSERVATION, PREDICTIONS AND GRAPHING Ocean discovery and experiments. Students complete experiments that involve observation, prediction and graphing.	Lesson 1: Sand & Ocean Discovery Bottle Lesson 2: Salt Water Experiment Lesson 3: Wave in a Bottle Lesson 4: How Long is a Whale?
THEME RELATED BOOKS: 10 Little Fish by Audrey Wood The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister Mister Seahorse by Eric Carle  Swimmy by Leo Lionni Sea, Sand and Me! by Patricia Hubbell	

## **Independent Work**

File Folder Tasks, activities and worksheets are included for math, reading, and writing at three different levels of difficulty. At level 1 and 2 file folder tasks, activities and worksheets are intended to be repeated each week. At level 3, activities and worksheets are provided for four weeks.

Students benefit from structured centers and independent work time. Review the Centers and/or the Independent Work routine ideas and visuals in the STAR Media Center.

Activities for centers and independent work follow a consistent format and address learning objectives/standards in reading, writing and math. Each new theme unit will follow the same format to provide consistency of instruction for the student and to build on previous skills learned. The following table is an overview of the format of each lesson.

CURRICULUM AREA	PRINTABLE FORMS	LEARNING FOCUS OBJECTIVES/STANDARD
READING Level 1: File Folder Tasks (FF) Level 2 & 3: File Folder Tasks (FF), Activities and Worksheets (WS) and Books.  Note: Worksheets can be laminated and reused by providing students with a dry erase marker and eraser.	Level 1 FF 1.1 Match the Fish FF 1.2 Match the Ocean Animals FF 1.3 Match the Ocean Fun FF 1.4 Sort Ocean Items FF 1.5 Sort Ocean and Land Animals	Readiness: Matching Colors Theme Vocabulary 1: Matching Theme Vocabulary 2: Matching Theme Comprehension 1: Sorting Theme Comprehension 2: Sorting
	Level 2 FF 2.1 Sea Star Letters A-H FF 2.2 Sea Star Letters I-Q FF 2.3 Sea Star Letters R-Z WS 2.4 Under the Sea Vocabulary WS 2.5 Under the Sea Sentences Book 2.6 Under the Sea	Phonics: Letter Identification 1 Phonics: Letter Identification 2 Phonics: Letter Identification 3 Theme Vocabulary Words Theme Vocabulary Sentences Theme Comprehension: Book1
	Level 3 WS 3.1 Beginning Sounds 1 WS 3.2 Beginning Sounds 2 FF 3.3 The Rhyming Whale WS 3.4 Ocean Fun Vocabulary WS 3.5 Ocean Sentences WS 3.6 Ocean Sight Words Book 3.7 At the Sea Book 3.8 What Do You See?	Phonics: Beginning Sounds 1 Phonics: Beginning Sounds 2 Phonemics: Rhyming Theme Vocabulary Words Theme Vocabulary Sentences Sight Words Theme Comprehension Book 2 Theme Comprehension Book 3
MATH Level 1: File Folder Tasks (FF) Level 2 & 3: File Folder Tasks (FF), Activities and Worksheets (WS)  Note: Worksheets can be laminated and reused by providing students with a dry erase marker and eraser.	Level 1 FF 1.1 Sea Turtle Number Matching FF 1.2 Ocean Animal Shape Matching FF 1.3 Under the Sea Coin Matching FF 1.4 Match the Clocks FF 1.5 Ocean Sorting FF1.6 Ocean Patterning 1	Counting and Matching Geometry Matching Money Matching Time Matching Sorting Pattern Matching
	Level 2 FF 2.1Counting Shells FF 2.2 Counting Shark Teeth WS 2.3 Compare Numbers at the Ocean WS 2.4 Under the Sea Colors and Shapes FF 2.5 Ocean Patterning 2 FF 2.6 Under the Sea Money 1 Book 2.7 Beach Time 1 WS 2.8 Under the Sea Classification	Count Objects to 5 Count Objects to 10 Compare Numbers to 10 Geometry Patterns Money Time Classify
	Level 3 WS 3.1 Ocean Counting WS 3.2 Comparing Numbers at the Ocean WS 3.3 Ocean Addition WS 3.4 Ocean Patterning 3 WS 3.5 Ocean Geometry FF 3.6 Under the Sea Money 2 Book 3.7 Beach Time 2 WS 3.8 Under the Sea Measurement	Counting Objects to 30 Compare Numbers to 30 Add/Subtract Patterns Geometry Money Time Measurement-Standard and Non-standard

# **Independent Work**

CURRICULUM AREA	PRINTABLE FORMS	LEARNING FOCUS OBJECTIVES/STANDARD
WRITING Level 1, 2 & 3: Worksheets (WS) and Activities.  Note: Worksheets can be laminated and reused by providing students with a dry erase marker and eraser.	Level 1 WS 1.1 Color the Ocean Life WS 1.2 Color the Ocean Items WS 1.3 Match Shapes and Color the Beach	Color Within the Lines Color Within the Lines Match Shapes and Color Within the Lines
	Level 2 WS 2.1 Trace and Color the Ocean Life WS 2.2 Trace and Color the Ocean Items WS 2.3 Trace Numbers 1-5 WS 2.4 Trace Numbers 6-10 WS 2.5 Under the Sea Letters	Trace and Color Trace and Color Trace Numbers and Color within the Lines Trace Numbers and Color within the Lines Trace Letters
	Level 3 WS 3.1 Under the Sea Words WS 3.2 Number Words WS 3.3 Under the Sea Sentences 1 WS 3.4 Under the Sea Sentences 2	Trace, Copy and Write Vocabulary Words Trace, Copy and Write Number Words Write Theme Related Sentences Presentation of Ideas in Print

