

Only in the Ocean

Grade Level: Second Grade

Objective: To understand that living things are found all over Earth but each can only live in a habitat that meets their basic needs.

Rational for Teaching: Explains that plants and animals interact with each other in their habitat in order to meet their survival needs.

Materials:

- A book about the ocean (such as Hello Fish!: Visiting the Coral Reef by Sylvia Earle) or any other age appropriate book that teaches about animals that live in the ocean around the coral reefs
- “Animal picture cards” of different animals in the ocean, ranging from small animals, such as fish and crabs, to large animals, such as sharks
- “Basic needs cards” consisting of pictures that each animal on the animal cards need (4 for each animal card- water, food, shelter, space)

Procedures:

1. Spread out the “basic needs cards” around one side of the classroom. Place the “basic needs cards” of the smaller ocean animals in the front, close together. Place the “basic needs cards” of the larger ocean animals in the back and spread them out more.
2. Read a book about ocean animals.
3. Discuss what every living animal needs, such as food, shelter, space, and water.
4. Assign an ocean animal to groups of 3 students and give them their “animal picture card.”
5. Explain that they are going to “be” their animal and they have to hunt and search for their basic needs. Tell them that they have to stay together and they have to find four “basic needs cards” to satisfy their need for food, water, shelter and space.
6. Once they find all four, they have to get in a line.

7. When they are all done, discuss which group finished first. Ask them why they think that the group that finished first had a smaller animal than the group that finished last.
(Smaller animals need less food, water, shelter and space than larger animals.)
8. Have students draw a new kind of fish in its habitat. They must present it to the class and explain how the habitat meets the needs of their fish.

Assessment: Draw a picture of an animal in a suitable habitat and write about how the habitat meets each of its basic needs.

Standards:

SC.2.L.17.1 Compare and contrast the basic needs that all living things, including humans, have for survival.

SC.2.L.17.2 Recognize and explain that living things are found all over the Earth, but each is only able to live in habitats that meet its basic needs.

SC.2.N.1.1 Raise questions about the natural world, investigate them in teams through free exploration and systematic observations, and generate appropriate explanations based on those explorations.

