WORLD OCEAN DAY 2025

Wonder: Sustaining what sustains us

Lesson Plan: Ocean Wonder Wall

Focus: Science, Art, Creativity, Critical Thinking

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Express their curiosity and awe about the ocean through creative contributions such as facts, drawings, or short poems.
- Collaborate as a class to create an interactive display that highlights diverse aspects of ocean life.
- Engage in critical thinking by asking questions about the ocean and deepening their curiosity.
- Build appreciation for the diverse marine life and ecosystems found in the ocean.

Materials Needed

- Large poster board or notice board for the "Ocean Wonder Wall"
- Sticky notes or small cards (for students to write or draw on)
- Markers, pens, coloured pencils for writing and drawing
- Images of marine life (printouts or digital images)
- Pre-selected facts about the ocean (optional, as examples to inspire students)
- Poetry prompts (optional for students who prefer writing poems)
- Tape or pins to attach contributions to the wall
- Interactive whiteboard (optional, if doing the activity digitally)

Lesson Procedure

1. Introduction (10–15 minutes)

Class Discussion:

- Ask the students: "What do you know about the ocean?" and "What are some things that you wonder about the ocean?"
- Write students' responses on the board to generate excitement and curiosity.
- Introduce the Ocean Wonder Wall as an interactive class project where everyone will contribute facts, drawings, poems, or questions about the ocean.

2. Explain the Activity (5 minutes)

Demonstrate how to contribute to the Wonder Wall:

- Encourage students to write down one interesting ocean fact, draw an image of a marine creature or landscape, or write a short poem about the ocean.

Provide a few question prompts to get them thinking, such as:

- "What animals live in the deepest parts of the ocean?"
- "How does the ocean help our planet?"
- "What makes the ocean so mysterious?"

Example contributions to inspire students:

Fact: "The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on Earth."

Drawing: A colourful fish or coral reef.

Poem: "The ocean is vast, full of secrets untold, with creatures of wonders, both timid and bold."

3. Student Contributions (25–30 minutes)

Individual Work:

Distribute sticky notes or small cards to students. Allow them time to:

- Write or draw their contribution related to the ocean.
- If students are unsure, offer them examples or ideas to inspire them, or encourage them to explore their curiosity further by asking questions.
- Poetry Prompt (optional): For older students, provide a poetry prompt related to the ocean (e.g., "Write a poem imagining what the ocean would say if it could talk").

Place Contributions on the Wall:

- As students finish, have them come up and attach their contributions to the Wonder Wall display using tape or push pins.
- For younger students, assist them with attaching their contributions.

Sharing Contributions:

- Encourage a few students to share their facts, drawings, or poems with the class.
- Use the opportunity to spark discussion: "Why did you choose this ocean animal?" or "What inspired your question or fact?"

4. Group Reflection and Discussion (5–10 minutes)

After all contributions are on the Wonder Wall, facilitate a whole-class reflection:

- "What are some things we learned from the Wonder Wall today?"
- "What new questions do we have about the ocean?"
- "How do you think the ocean impacts life on Earth?"

Encourage students to keep the Wonder Wall alive by adding to it over time as they learn more about the ocean in future lessons or units.

Differentiation

For younger students (F–2):

- Focus on simple facts or drawings. Offer more guidance in creating and attaching contributions.

For older students (3–10):

- Encourage more detailed facts, questions, or creative writing (e.g., poems or short stories about marine life).
- Challenge older students to explore specific ecosystems or marine conservation efforts.

Extension Ideas

Ocean Fact Exploration:

Students can research specific ocean topics (e.g., overfishing, bioluminescence, coral reefs, marine conservation) and add these findings to the Wonder Wall.

Poetry or Art Exhibition:

After the activity, turn the wall into a temporary exhibition of ocean facts, poetry, and art, where students can walk around and appreciate each other's work.

Digital Version:

If you're teaching virtually or have access to digital tools, create an online version of the Wonder Wall where students can post digital contributions (using tools like Padlet or Google Slides).