

Activity Description

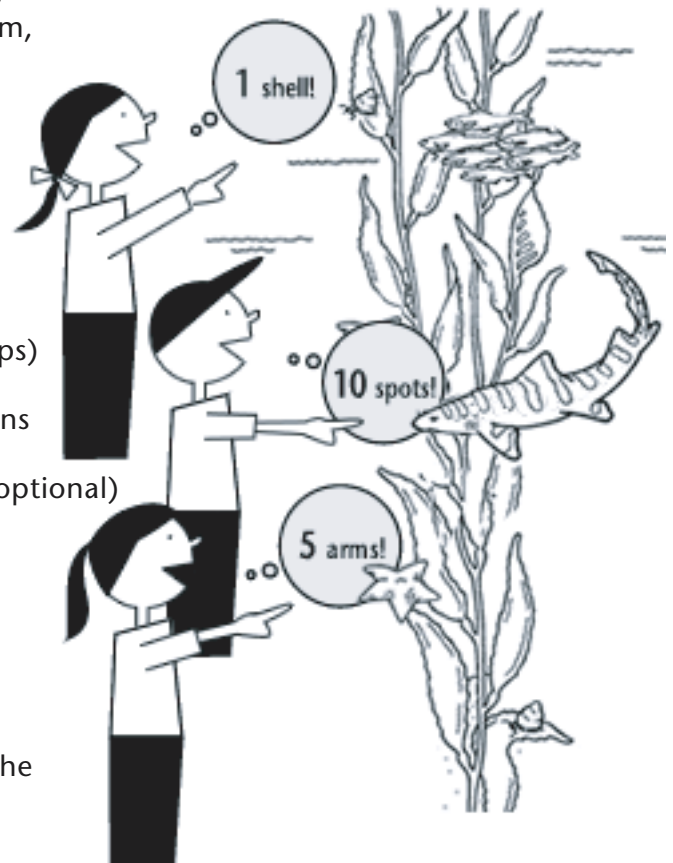
Animals have different numbers of body parts. Some animals have one foot, some have two shells, some have five rays, some have eight legs, and more. On a trip to the aquarium, students search for an animal with body parts for each number from one to ten. They can count rays, fins, feet, gills, eyes, spots or anything. When they get back to school, students can compile their findings and make an aquarium counting-book or display.

Materials

- Objects for counting (crayons, unifex cubes or bottle caps)
- Close-up pictures of animals
- Index cards for chaperones to record student observations
- Poster paper and markers (optional)
- Paper, crayons and art supplies for making mini-books (optional)

Directions

1. Before the trip to the aquarium, review various counting activities with the students.
2. Look at pictures of animals in books, from recycled calendars and magazines or on the aquarium web site. Do any of the animals have one of a body part? Have the students share the name of the animal and its single body part, such as, "The dog has one tail." Record the students' observations and continue, looking for two, three and more body parts.
3. On their visit to the aquarium, challenge the students to find an animal with body parts for each of the numbers from one to ten. (1 tail, head, mouth, spine, or... and 2 eyes, flippers, ears, legs, or...) Ask chaperones to record the students' findings, such as "The leopard shark has one tail. The clam has two shells." Record the students' observations and continue, looking for two, three and more body parts.
4. When you return to school, make mini-books or a word wall with the results from the Number Search.



Resources

- Read *One Nighttime Sea* by Deborah Lee Rose
- Read *One Less Fish* by Kim Michelle Toft and Allan Sheather
- Read *Fish Counting* by Arthur David Zoller

Extensions

- Back in the classroom, students can make a bar graph or class chart of animals they discovered in the aquarium.
- Do a number search in nature in the schoolyard, nearby park or at home.

ABC Search in Monterey Bay Aquarium

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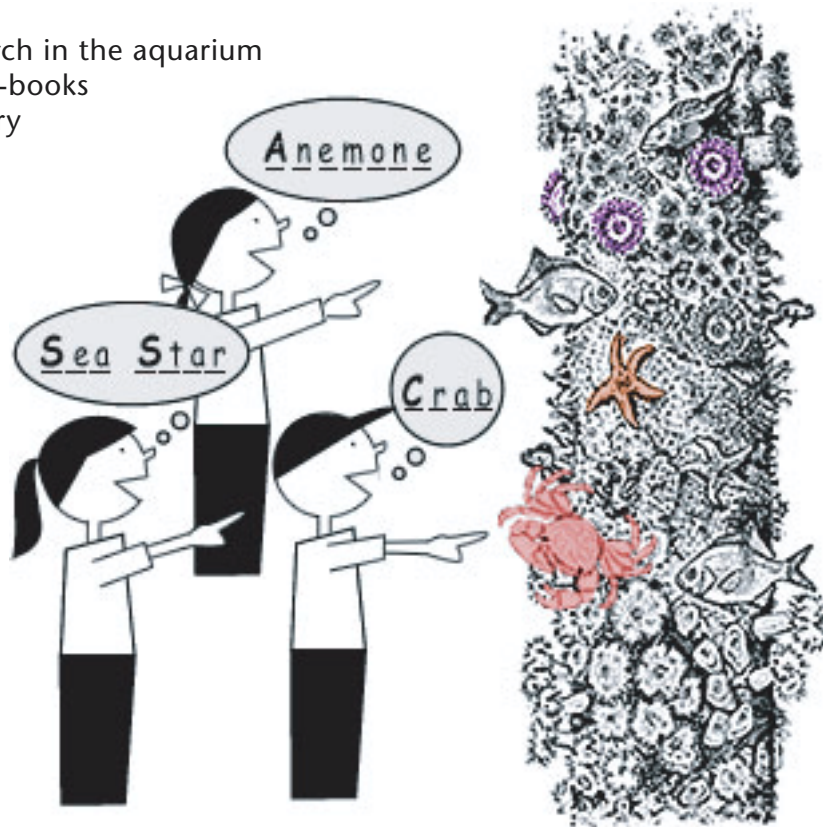
On a trip to the aquarium, students search for an animal or algae for each letter of the alphabet. When they get back to school, they can make an aquarium mini-book or class dictionary.

Materials

- Notepaper to record the results of the ABC Search in the aquarium
- Paper, crayons and art supplies for making mini-books
- Class word banks or individual student dictionary

Directions

1. Before the visit to the aquarium, read an alphabet book with the students and talk about beginning sounds.
2. Explore the aquarium web site and look for pictures of animals the students may see on their trip.
3. While visiting the aquarium, challenge the students to find animals or plants for each letter of the alphabet. Ask chaperones to record the students' findings.
4. When you return to school, make mini-books or a word wall with the results from the ABC Search.



Resources

Read *A Swim through the Sea* by Kristin Joy Pratt
Read *Into the A, B, Sea* by Deborah Lee Rose

Extensions

- Make an ABC aquarium mini-book or add discoveries to your dictionary.
- Draw pictures of your favorite animals and plants or do some research to complete the alphabet. Make up an imaginary animal or plant if you are stuck on hard letters like Q or X, or add other things you saw at the aquarium like V for volunteer.
- Display your animal and plant alphabet pictures on a wall or in a word bank.