

## Marvelous Marine Life

**SCIENCE:** Biology

**USE THIS LESSON TO:** Explore the diverse sea-life found in various levels of the ocean and its surrounding eco-systems and to provide a researched foundation for the cast of *The Little Mermaid JR.*'s character choices.

**TIME:** 45 minutes

**MATERIALS:**

- Sea Creature Cards (included)
- Internet or library access
- Marvelous Marine Life Live! Interview Questions (included)
- Paper and pencils

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will:

- Work independently, in small groups, and as a class to transfer scientific learning to the creative process
- Research fish, crustacean, bird and mammal species that live in or near the ocean
- Make decisions about their roles in *The Little Mermaid JR.* based on research and fact
- Develop and implement scientific and marine literacy
- Develop and implement theatre literacy

**INTRODUCTION:** *The Little Mermaid JR.* takes place in several eco-systems: the Pelagic zone, or open sea; the Aphotic zone, just above the sea bed; the Bethnic zone, or the sea bed itself; and the surface of the ocean, including the beach and coast. Just think about how many animals must live in these various eco-systems! Let's explore some of them and see how we can use our findings to strengthen our production of *The Little Mermaid JR.*

**WARM-UP:** (10 minutes) Dive to the Fathoms Below

1. Have students silently walk about the space. Be sure to clear desks and chairs out of the way so that everyone has room to move.
2. Inform your class that they are SCUBA divers on a mission to study the various ecosystems of the sea. They've been given state of the art equipment that will allow them to be the first people to explore the deepest levels of the ocean.
3. Inform the group that they will begin their research on the ocean floor and work their way up through the various levels of the sea. Their objective is to observe the various plants and animals that live in each of the ocean's zones. As the students dive down, encourage them to use their bodies and SCUBA equipment to reach their destination. Coach the students by commenting on each level of the ocean as the group passes through. When you pass the Aphotic zone, turn the lights off to lend some theatricality to your classroom ocean.
4. When the group has landed on the sea-bed, inform the group that they have reached the Bethnic zone. This is the ocean floor.
5. Encourage the group to walk about as if they are deep under the sea and to take notice of the world around them. Ask questions like, "Is it dark? Use your diver's flashlight if you need it." "What kind of sea life do you notice down here?" "What does this level of the ocean sound like?" Ask them to use their imaginations to "see" the types of creatures that live at this level.
6. Now, prompt the group to swim up to the next level, the Aphotic zone, and repeat.
7. Continue up to the Pelagic zone, and again engage the group through side coaching and by encouraging them to hypothesize about this level's inhabitants.
8. Finally, instruct your divers to break the surface of the water and climb aboard the ship. Repeat your questions and point out the animals that live near the coast.

**HOOK:** (15 minutes) Research Life Under the Sea.

1. Distribute one Sea Creature Card to each student.
2. Ask your students to complete the “fact” column on their Sea Creature Card by researching their animal using their science text, the internet, or the library.
3. Next, have students complete the “fable” column on their card by researching their character in The Little Mermaid JR. script and using their imaginations.
4. Once your class has completed their Sea Creature Cards, have your students find a partner to interview about their research. Those being interviewed must answer questions in character as their sea creature!

**MAIN ACTIVITY:** (15 minutes) Marvelous Marine Life Live!

1. Bring the class back together and inform the group that you will be going into character as a talk show host. Pick a name for your character and use an accessory like a scarf or a hat to set this persona apart from the teacher your students interact with everyday.
2. Ask for five volunteers to be guests on your talk show. Let your students know that they can reference their cards, but that they must answer your questions in character.
3. In role as the talk show host, welcome the studio audience to another exiting episode of Marvelous Marine Life Live! Let your audience know who your special guests will be. Keep things theatrical by soliciting applause from your studio audience.
4. Interview your guests using the Marvelous Marine Life Live! Interview Questions. Save some time to field a few questions from the studio audience.
5. Thank your guests and the audience for their time and conclude your show. Be sure to remove your character’s accessory when you go out of role.

**REFLECTION:** (5 minutes) Journal

Ask students to write a brief journal entry based on one of the following prompts:

- Think back to our SCUBA diving expedition. Write a journal entry based upon something you encountered on the deep sea dive.
- In role as your sea creature character, write a postcard to a friend back in your habitat describing your experience at Marvelous Marine Life Live!

# Bottle Nose Dolphin

<b>Facts</b>		<b>Fables</b>	
Class:		Family:	
Genus:			
Ocean Zone:		Home:	
Physical Features:			
		Hobbies:	
Life Expectancy:		Age:	
Notes:		Notes:	

# Sea Gull

<b>Facts</b>		<b>Fables</b>	
Class:		Family:	
Genus:			
Ocean Zone:		Home:	
Physical Features:			
		Hobbies:	
Life Expectancy:		Age:	
Notes:		Notes:	

# Seahorse

<b>Facts</b>		<b>Fables</b>	
Class:		Family:	
Genus:			
Ocean Zone:		Home:	
Physical Features:			
		Hobbies:	
Life Expectancy:		Age:	
Notes:		Notes:	

# Blowfish

<b>Facts</b>		<b>Fables</b>	
Class:		Family:	
Genus:			
Ocean Zone:		Home:	
Physical Features:			
		Hobbies:	
Life Expectancy:		Age:	
Notes:		Notes:	

# Flounder

<b>Facts</b>		<b>Fables</b>	
Class:		Family:	
Genus:			
Ocean Zone:		Home:	
Physical Features:			
		Hobbies:	
Life Expectancy:		Age:	
Notes:		Notes:	

# Pelican

<b>Facts</b>		<b>Fables</b>	
Class:		Family:	
Genus:			
Ocean Zone:		Home:	
Physical Features:			
		Hobbies:	
Life Expectancy:		Age:	
Notes:		Notes:	

# Humpback Angler Fish

<b>Facts</b>		<b>Fables</b>	
Class:		Family:	
Genus:			
Ocean Zone:		Home:	
Physical Features:			
		Hobbies:	
Life Expectancy:		Age:	
Notes:		Notes:	

# Crab

<b>Facts</b>		<b>Fables</b>	
Class:		Family:	
Genus:			
Ocean Zone:		Home:	
Physical Features:			
		Hobbies:	
Life Expectancy:		Age:	
Notes:		Notes:	

# Jellyfish

<b>Facts</b>		<b>Fables</b>	
Class:		Family:	
Genus:			
Ocean Zone:		Home:	
Physical Features:			
		Hobbies:	
Life Expectancy:		Age:	
Notes:		Notes:	

# Shrimp

<b>Facts</b>		<b>Fables</b>	
Class:		Family:	
Genus:			
Ocean Zone:		Home:	
Physical Features:			
		Hobbies:	
Life Expectancy:		Age:	
Notes:		Notes:	