

Year 4 Topic

Blue Abyss



Grab your wetsuit! We're going on a deep-sea adventure.

In this learning project, we'll visit an aquarium to gain an insight into the ocean world. We'll sketch different creatures and create clay sculptures of our favourite. Writing poems inspired by our favourite sea creatures will help us to develop a rich vocabulary. Using maps, globes and atlases, we'll identify the world's oceans and seas. We'll also find different ways of grouping living things. Diving back into the 1800s, we'll learn all about the HMS *Challenger*. We'll research Jacques Cousteau and write biographies about his exciting explorations. As a challenge, we'll create model submarines using recycled materials and program an onscreen submarine. We'll study Antony Gormley's *Another Place* sculpture and write reviews. After locating the Great Barrier Reef on a map, we'll learn about the risks it faces.

At the end of the project, we'll invite you to visit our 'Oceans art gallery' and deliver workshops about sustainability.

Help your child prepare for their project

Oceans are remarkable and fascinating places that are full of life. Why not visit the coast together to see an ocean or sea up close? You could also look at an atlas or online map to find out which seas and oceans surround Britain. Alternatively, work together to create an under-the-sea collage using different materials to represent the plants, creatures and water.

What will you choose to do?

- Why is the ocean blue? Go on... find out!
- How many amazing shark facts can you find? Build them into a PowerPoint presentation to show the rest of the class. Remember to include images and perhaps some video clips too.
- Write a 'true or false' quiz with fascinating facts about creatures and plants under the sea.
- Create fact cards about the creatures of the Great Barrier Reef in a Top Trumps style.
- Create a picture dictionary of plants and creatures of the ocean.
- Visit your local library and find non-fiction books about the oceans and seas. Use them to find out about the sea creatures of the world. Look for information using contents pages, glossaries and index pages. Write down any new facts you have learnt, and share them with your class.
- Use the web with an adult to find out about famous undersea explorers, such as Robert Ballard, Sylvia Earle, William Beebe and James Cameron. Record your information to share with the class.
- Draw the view of the ocean you might see if looking through the window of a submersible.
- Design an 'under the sea' board game. What creatures might your counters represent?
- Write a story about a diver's exploration of a coral reef.
- Learn The Beatles' song, *Yellow Submarine*, and write a new verse of your own.
- Write a poem about the creatures living in the blue abyss. It might be an acrostic, shape, haiku, cinquain or free verse poem.
- Research how to scuba dive and write a set of instructions for a new diver.
- Make a tourist leaflet for people visiting Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

