

ACTIVITIES

Ocean Floor (Babies)

Put a blue mat or blanket on the floor, along with plush/foam ocean toys. Babies can crawl around and explore the sea creatures.

Treasure Hunt Sensory Bins or Bottles (Babies/Toddlers)

For babies, premake sensory bottles or bags filled with sand/ rice and beads/seashells/plastic coins. Alternatively, make a sensory bin filled with larger treasures that toddlers can dig through with cups/ spoons/plastic shovels. Kinetic sand also works really well for bins. Don't forget to put a tarp under the bin for easy clean-up!



Image source: Joelle Wake of Whiting Public Library, Whiting, IN

Sandpaper Castles (Babies/Toddlers/Preschool)

For babies, cut castle silhouettes out of sandpaper and hang them on the wall. They can feel the “sand” with the help of caregivers. Toddlers can have tactile fun ripping up sheets of sandpaper. Preschoolers can tear or cut their own shapes out of sandpaper and glue them into a sandcastle collage.

Seashell Play and Math (Babies/Toddlers/Preschool)

Set out a bin of large seashells. Babies can have some sensory play; toddlers can make designs on the floors, and preschoolers can count out given numbers of each type of shell.

Walk the Plank (Toddlers/Preschool)

Put a blue mat or blanket on the floor, and lay a cardboard or wood “plank” (about 6’ long) over it. Cut “shark fins” from black foam board and attach them to a base to set them on the floor. Toddlers can walk over the plank. Preschoolers can try to do it with their eyes closed!



Image source: Susan Foster of Cobb County Public Library, Marietta, GA

TIP:

Unstructured play is a very important part of early literacy development. Research shows that giving children time to explore and play provides opportunities for self-direction, imagination, and goal-setting.

GAME/ACTIVITY**Treasure Chest (Toddlers/Preschool)**

Fill a treasure chest with necklaces, plastic coins, seashells, and ocean figurines. Children close their eyes and choose a treasure one by one. Does this little pirate want a treasure? Aye aye!

Pirate Hat (Toddlers/Preschool)

Precut pirate hat shapes (one per child) out of foam or construction paper. After storytime, children can decorate with crayons/markers/glitter glue/stick-on jewels. To make it wearable, attach paper strips (for paper hats) or elastic (for foam hats) to wrap around children's heads. Idea and Printable courtesy of Aimee Steinbruecker of Mead Public Library, Sheboygan, WI.



Image source: Aimee Steinbruecker of Mead Public Library, Sheboygan, WI

Ocean in an Egg Carton (Toddlers/Preschool)

Each child gets a blue egg carton or box painted blue before the program. Then they take a "walk on the beach" to gather objects such as seashells, printed images of sea creatures, and/or "seaweed" shapes cut out of foam. Glue these items to the box/egg cartons, or keep them loose.

Seashell/Beach Worksheets (Toddlers/Preschool)

See Printables for handwriting, coloring, and maze worksheets.

Pirate Mask (Preschool)

Before the program, print pirate mask templates onto white cardstock, and cut out the eye holes. After children color their masks with crayons or markers, duct tape a craft stick to the back of each one so they can hold them up to their faces. Printable courtesy of Aimee Steinbruecker of Mead Public Library, Sheboygan, WI.

Printables

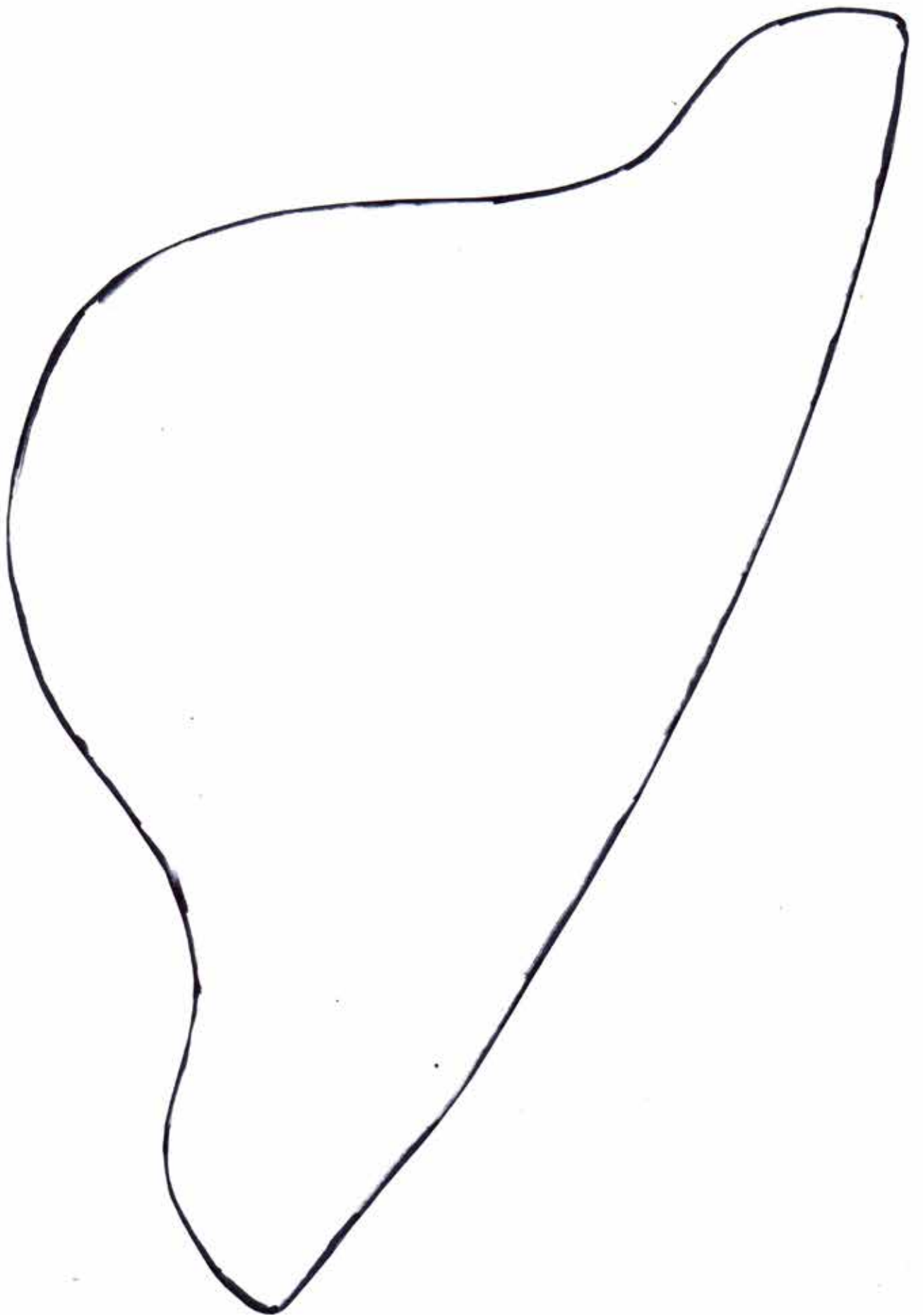
Pirate Hat Template

Seashell Handwriting Practice

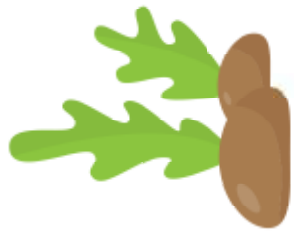
Seashell Counting Practice

Beach Maze Coloring Sheet

Pirate Mask Template



HANDWRITING PRACTICE





HOW
MANY?



