

OCEAN ANIMALS EARLY LIT CROSSOVER

AGES

Children 4+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

An ocean animal storytime with ocean stations that can be combined with storytime for an early lit/children's crossover program that works for slightly older children as well. Each station has adaptations to make it into a virtual program. If there are children in attendance who are too young for the stations, put out an ocean themed felt board and a box of ocean animal toys. Suggested runtime: 45 min.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Station #1: Paper Plate Octopus

Materials: paper plates, streamers or tissue paper, glue, string, crayons or paint & brushes, small craft items such as sequins, pom-poms, googly eyes, etc.

Instructions:

- In advance, cut paper plates in half. Cut strips of streamer or tissue paper. Cut lengths of string.
- Invite children to decorate their half plate as the octopus's head, using whatever materials they like.
- Once the plate is decorated (and the paint is dry, if using paint), glue the strips of streamers to the back of the plate so that they hang down like tentacles.
- Make a small hole at the top and thread a length of string through it for hanging your octopus up.



Image source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI

ASL ADAPTATIONS:

Investigate whether or not there are interpretative services (or someone who knows ASL) in your community. See if they'd be willing to partner with you for this (and other) events. Alternatively, learn ASL for opening/closing songs:
<https://bit.ly/3unoSnr>

FACT:

Octopuses have eight arms with suckers along most of their length. Tentacles, on the other hand, only have suckers on their ends.

TIP:

If your audience contains children under three, omit the small craft materials such as sequins and pom-poms.

ADAPTATION:

For a virtual program, provide make-and-take bags with the supplies patrons can pick up in advance. Include paper plates and streamers or tissue paper. Children can follow along with a video while staff demonstrates how to make it.

Station #2: Ocean Identification Cards

Materials: laminated ocean animal pictures (see Printables for silhouettes)

Instructions:

- In advance, laminate pictures of ocean animals and plants. Write the name of each object on the back of the card.
- Children identify and sort cards.
- Alternatively (or in addition), cut out pictures of ocean animals from magazines. Make something “wrong” with each one, like an extra tentacle, an eye out of place, parts of another creature.
- Children identify what is wrong with each picture.

Station #3: Ocean Playdough

Materials: Small sea creature toys, divided serving tray, blue and brown play dough

Optional: Ocean-themed animal felt board and ocean animal toys

Instructions:

- In advance, place items in a divided tray with blue and brown play dough (or sand dough).
- If desired, you can also make homemade play dough to use.
- Children will flatten the play dough and create seascapes by placing the items on the ocean floor (brown play dough) or in the water (blue play dough).

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

An extra volunteer for each station.

ADAPTATIONS:

For a virtual program, sign up for a free Kahoot account. Set up an ocean animal guessing game to share on your screen. Alternatively, play it game show-style with flashcards: Hold up ocean animal cards and let children guess what they are. You can also make movement cards for ocean animals (crawl like a crab, swim like a fish, etc.).

ADAPTATION:

For a virtual program, provide take-and-make bags with blue and brown construction paper and ocean animal/ sea floor pictures. Children can cut out the animals and sea floor objects, then sort them by placing them on the correct color of construction paper.

RESOURCES

Web

Ideas for Ocean-Themed Stations:

“Preschool Lab: Ocean Animals” from *Abby the Librarian*:

<https://bit.ly/3oYrveh>

Paper plate jellyfish craft from *Learn Create Love*: <https://bit.ly/2Sx87Jx>

Ocean play dough from *The Imagination Tree*: <https://bit.ly/3bXu7Ef>

Sand play dough from *The Imagination Tree*: <https://bit.ly/3hY0TZJ>

Kahoot! app: <https://bit.ly/2Tjmu4l>

Books

Non-fiction

The Big Book of the Blue (2018) by Yuval Zommer (children’s)

The Sea Knows (2020) by Alice B. McGinty and Alan B. Havis (children’s)

Shimmer & Splash: The Sparkling World of Sea Life (2013) by Jim Arnosky (children’s)

A First Book of the Sea (2018) by Nicola Davies and Emily Sutton (children’s)

Hello World! Ocean Life (2019) by Jill McDonald (children’s)

Fiction

Deep Sea Dive (2012) by Salina Yoon (children’s)

Commotion in the Ocean (2002) by Giles Andreae and David Wojtowycz (children’s)

Printables

Ocean Animals Silhouettes

TIP:

See early literacy sections for storytime books and song ideas!

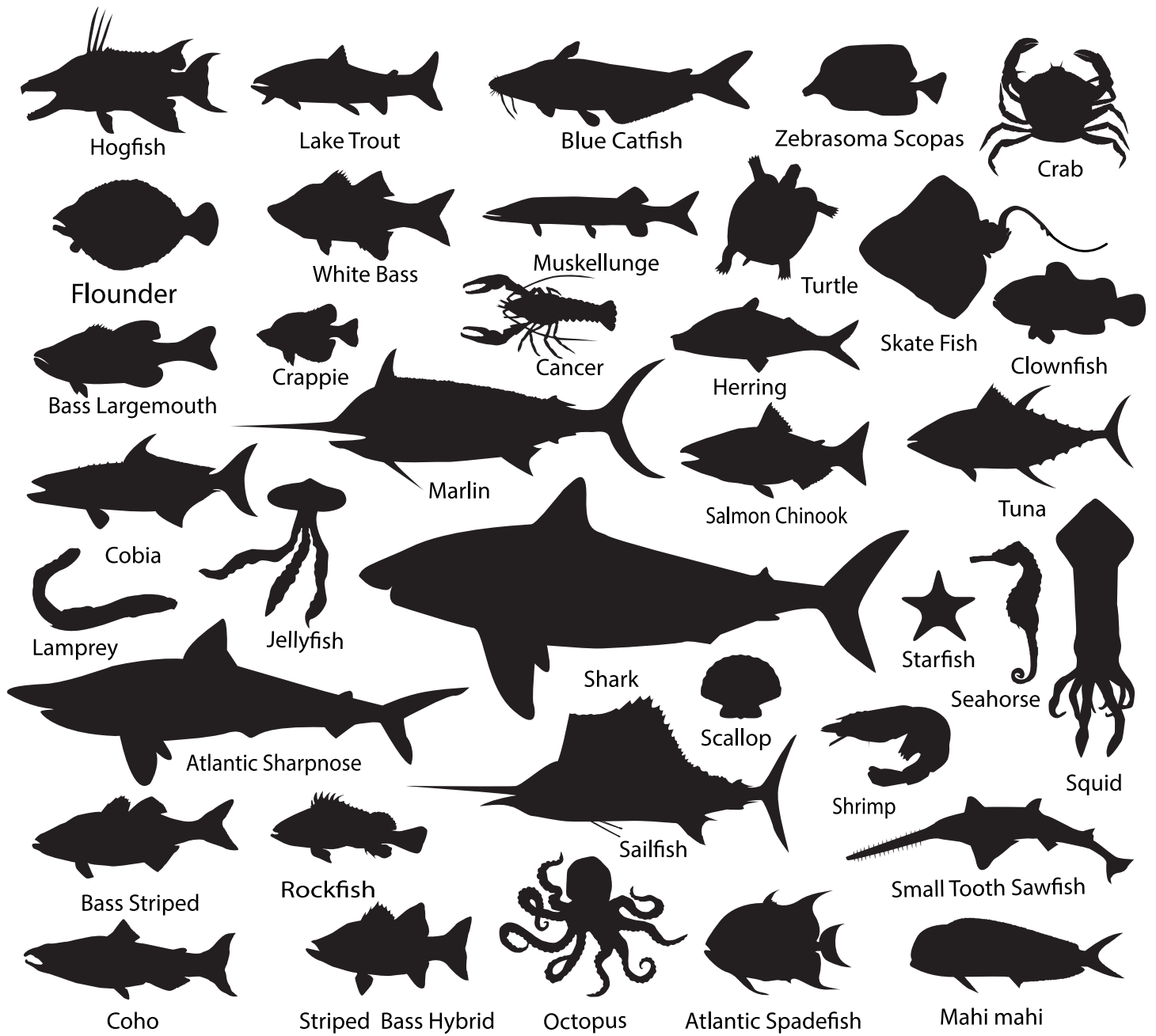


Image source: Shutterstock