

OCEAN DAY: HONORING THE OCEAN

AGES

Children 8+

Teens/tweens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program was inspired by the Japanese summertime holiday Ocean Day (also referred to as Marine Day), that honors the ocean as a food source and as a means of transportation. You can teach children about the holiday or alter the program to have an environmental twist. One popular Ocean Day tradition is to light lanterns on the waterfront in Tokyo, so children can make their own paper lanterns with LED lights. Suggested runtime: 60 min.



Image source: Shutterstock



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials: Watercolors, paintbrushes, paper, white paper lunch bags, hole punches, battery operated tea lights, tables, chairs

Optional: PowerPoint presentation, laptop, projector



Ocean Day

Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

Offer ocean-themed or Japanese candies and snacks, such as Swedish Fish, sheets of seaweed, Pocky sticks, Hello Pandas, etc.

ICEBREAKER IDEA:

Create a PowerPoint with enlarged images of ocean life, then have participants try to guess what the images are.

CRAFT | LOW COST

Instructions:

- Teach participants about the holiday. Ocean Day is celebrated on the third Monday of July and celebrates gratitude for the ocean and its importance in our lives. People spend their time watching fireworks, coordinating beach clean ups, and attending festivals.
- Create paper lanterns out of white lunch bags. Children can paint, decorate, or add poems to their lanterns before adding LED tea lights.
- Teens may like to try their hand at writing kanji on their lanterns (one of the three scripts used in Japanese writing). They could also use blank stationary or create a watercolor wash background. Kanji suggestions are words such as ocean, peace, respect, etc.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

“Celebrating Marine Day in Japan” from *The Japanese Shop*:
<https://bit.ly/3wD49xD>

Plastic phones on the beach from *The New York Times*:
<https://nyti.ms/3fsHrmd>

Guide to writing kanji from *Kanshudo* <https://bit.ly/3fvVxDr>

Study tool for learning kanji from *Kanji Alive*: <https://kanjialive.com/>

Books

Non-fiction

Japanese Celebrations: Cherry Blossoms, Lanterns and Stars! (2006) by Betty Reynolds (children’s)

Floating Lanterns and Golden Shrines: Celebrating Japanese Festivals (2000) by Rena Krasno (children’s)

Let’s Learn Japanese (2019) by Aurora Cacciapuoti (children’s)

My First Book of Haiku Poems (2019) by Esperanza Ramirez-Christensen and Tracy Gallup (children’s)

The Mess That We Made (2020) by Michelle Lord and Julia Blattman (children’s)

A Planet Full of Plastic (2019) by Neal Layton (children’s)

Let’s Investigate Plastic Pollution (2018) by Ruth Owen (children’s)

What a Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting our Planet (2019) by

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Jess French (children's)

Plastic, Ahoy!: Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (2014) by Patricia Newman (children's)

Fiction

Saving Tally: An Adventure into the Great Pacific Plastic Patch (2019) by Serena Lane Ferrari and Giorgia Fallicelli (children's)

The Phone Booth in Mr. Hirota's Garden (2019) by Heather Smith and Rachel Wada (children's)

Harry Saves the Ocean: Teaching Children about Sea Pollution and Recycling (2019) by N.G. K., Sylva Fae, and Janae Dimmet (children's)