

SEASHELL ACTIVITIES

AGES

Children 5+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Three different seashell crafts and activities. Great for sensory input. Suggested runtime: 45 min.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Station #1: Decorate a Seashell

Materials: Large seashells, beads, crayons, stickers, cutouts, glue, paint and paintbrushes (optional)

Instructions: Children decorate a large shell with beads, crayons, cutouts, paint, etc.

TIP:

See also Jewelry Trays and Treasure Boxes on page 47 for a variation on this idea for teens/tweens.

GAME/ACTIVITY

Station #2: Watercolor Seashells

Materials:

- Watercolor paper
- Watercolors
- white glue and black acrylic paint (or premade black glue)
- Paintbrushes
- Pencils,
- Salt (optional)
- Seashell template (optional; see Resources)
- Tables and chairs



Image source: Heather Oates of Ligonier Valley Library, Ligonier, PA

Instructions:

- In advance, make your own black glue by mixing white glue with black acrylic paint until you reach desired opacity. Set up tables and chairs.
- Draw seashells or another scene on watercolor paper, or make photocopies for children to trace (see Resources for a template).
- Trace the lines of your drawing with the black glue, and let it dry.
- Watercolor between the lines. Optionally, when wet, sprinkle salt.

Station #3: Shell Identification

Materials: Shells, shell identification books, magnifying glasses

Instructions:

- In advance, purchase shells, shell identification books, and magnifying glasses. Alternatively, you could print or cut out images of different types of shells and laminate them.
- Children examine seashells and try to identify them.

TIP:

If time is limited, trace the lines with black glue before the program so children can get right to painting. Or omit the black glue and have children paint a beach scene.

ADAPTATION:

For younger children, instead of identification, discuss where shells come from and how they're made, then let them handle different kinds of shells.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Add an extra volunteer to each station.

RESOURCES

Web

Watercolor seashell craft from *The Pinterest Parent*: <https://bit.ly/3fpKk7a>

Video of “Seashore Surprises” from *Reading Rainbow* (free):
<https://bit.ly/3uq2HgB>

Learning about shells from *wNet School*: <https://bit.ly/2SxFaN0>

Books

Non-fiction

Seashells: More Than a Home (2019) by Melissa Stewart and Sarah S. Brannon (children’s)

Shells (Smithsonian Handbooks) (2002) by S. Peter Dance (children’s)

Sand (Jump into Science series) (2006) by Ellen J. Prager and Nancy Woodman (children’s)

Fiction

Seashells by the Seashore (2002) by Marianne Berkes and Robert Noreika (children’s)

A House for Hermit Crab (2002) by Eric Carle (children’s)

Grains of Sand (2018) by Sibyle Delacroix trans. Karen Li (children’s)

The Sandcastle Contest (2005) by Robert Munsch and Michael Martchenko (children’s)

Day at the Beach (2018) by Tom Booth (children’s)

It Is Not Perfect (2020) by Anna Kang and Christopher Weyant (children’s)

Sand Cake (2015) by Frank Asch (children’s)

Where the Ocean Meets the Sand (2020) by Beth Costanzo and Ekaterina Illina (children’s)

Jules vs. the Ocean (2020) by Jesse Sima (children’s)

Printables

Seashell Template

