



Activity Kit

Getting to Know the Ocean

Materials

- *Ocean in a Box*: 20 Dried Specimens for Classroom Study **NOTE**: please keep specimens in their bags

Books

- *Oceans in 30 Seconds* by Dr. Jen Green
- *Marine Science for Kids* by Josh and Bethanie Hesterman
- *Ocean: A Visual Encyclopedia* by John Woodward

DVD

- *Disney Nature: Oceans*

Binder



Recommended for Grades 3 and up



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What to know about this kit...

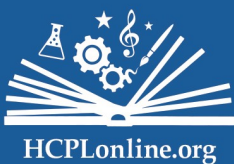
Do you find yourself drawn to the ocean? Are you calmed by the sound of crashing waves? Do you wonder what lies beneath the surface? You're not alone! Oceans are full of wonder for many of us, and this kit will give you a peek inside the world of the ocean.

The specimens included in this kit are things you might find (if you're lucky!) while walking on the sand along the shore. The DVD, *DisneyNature Oceans* takes you beneath the surface and gives you the chance to explore the depths of our planet's oceans. The books included in this kit were carefully selected to provide information about many aspects of the ocean, and hands-on activities that you can do to model, visualize, and experience a variety of marine science concepts.

If you live in Maryland, you're lucky to be so close to one of Earth's five oceans, the Atlantic Ocean. Maryland has been called "America in Miniature," because so much is packed into its 10,460 square miles of land and water. You can find just about any kind of natural feature here, except a desert. Maryland is comprised of three distinct regions—the Appalachian Region, the Piedmont Plateau, and the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The major features of Maryland's Atlantic Coastal Plain include The Chesapeake Bay, Bay tributaries, swamps and marshes, and the Atlantic Ocean. Maryland has 31 miles of Atlantic coastline along Ocean City and Assateague Island. On the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean, beachcombers are able to discover many different examples of ocean life, including crustaceans, mollusks, corals, sponges, aquatic plants, and more, and even that is just a tiny glimpse into the mysteries hidden in the ocean.

We spend most of our lives on land, even though we live on an ocean planet. About 70 percent of the planet is covered by water, yet even scientists acknowledge that we have better maps of the surface of Mars than we do of our own ocean floors. There is still so much to be discovered about our oceans, so if marine science has captured your attention, follow that curiosity, and maybe you'll grow up to make new and exciting discoveries about Earth's oceans!

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