



Teacher's Guide  
Sea Creatures and Sea Shells  
Make the Connection Hands on Tour  
Grade : PreK-2<sup>nd</sup>

## Museum of the Gulf Coast

### Description

This hands on program introduces youngsters to the wonders of the sea with an engaging story time, sea life sorting, crafts, ocean bio-facts, and live animals.

### Pre-Visit Activity

Read the book " The whales' song " by Dyan Sheldon and have a tape with the sounds of the whales ready to be played. After you read the story have the children lay down on the rug and turn the lights low. Tell the children that you want them to listen for their names as they listen to the whales song. Say their name quietly as they rest. After this activity you can have materials ready for the children to practice their name or draw pictures of the whales.

### Concepts/Goals

- There are many different types of animals living in coastal waters.
- Animals meet their basic needs in very different ways.
- Students will explore some animals that are native to a coastal region.
- Students will discuss similarities and differences between the animals.

### Vocabulary

**Vertebrae**-Bones in the spinal column

**Echinoderm**-A group of in vertebrate animals that live exclusively in the ocean. They are known for their "spiny skin." These animals include sea stars, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, and sand dollars

**Invertebrate**-Animal without a backbone

**Crustacean**-Group of animals with an exoskeleton, jointed legs, and antenna. These include lobster, crabs, crayfish, and shrimp

**Exoskeleton**-The hard, outer-cover of the outside of an animal's body that supports and protects the animal.

### Extension Activity

**Ocean Animal Book**

In this activity, students will work in groups to brainstorm facts about ocean animals. Each student will create one page of a larger book entitled “What We Learned About Ocean Animals.”

#### PROCEDURE

1. Group students in pairs or groups of three.
2. Draw a K-W-L chart on the chalkboard. Direct each group to pick one ocean animal and discuss what they:
  - **Know** about that ocean animal
  - **Want** to know about that ocean animal
  - **Learned** about that ocean animal during the Wonders of the Sea program
3. Have each student draw a picture of that animal.
4. Have each student choose one fact from their list and write a sentence using information to caption their drawing.
5. Collect all of the student pages and add a cover page made out of construction paper. Your completed class book can be titled “What We Know About Ocean Animals” or “All About Ocean Animals.”