

Dragon Fire O C E A N M I S T

The Waves Bring Dinner

Goals

Teach students to observe but not harm natural life.
 Illustrate the interconnectedness of even a small ecosystem.
 Demonstrate how tides contribute to the food supply.

Basis

A picture book to illustrate the variety of animal and plant life in any single tide pool. A few suggestions:

Life in a Tide Pool, Fowler

What's in the Tide Pool, Hunter

Tide Pool (Look Closer), Gunzi

Pagoo, Holling

If your school library doesn't have a similar book about tide pools, ask at your local library branch. Amazon also has numerous titles available.

Crafts/Activities

The following projects can be done beforehand or with students, depending on availability of materials, the number of students, skill levels, and time considerations:

1. A sea anemone made from half of a styrofoam ball and numerous strands of pipe cleaner or yarn stuck in the foam. Foam can be spray painted ahead and yarn color should match and be vivid, a deep red or something similar to book illustrations. Discuss wave action and the food supply.
2. Create a simple five-tipped starfish design that students can cut out of a paper plate. Depending on students' small motor skills, show them how to fold each arm down the length so that the star is raised slightly. Use glue to affix sand, corn meal or glitter, to approximate the rough texture of a real starfish. Remind students that starfish have countless tiny tentacles that hold them securely to rocks, and that if they are pried loose they may die. (Encourage tactile observations: the soft swaying of the yarn "anemone" or the rough sturdiness of the "starfish.")

If possible, a trip to a local aquarium is an ideal way to review the lesson. Another possibility would involve video of a tidal pool over the course of several tides.

