

ACTIVITY PAGES

Oceans

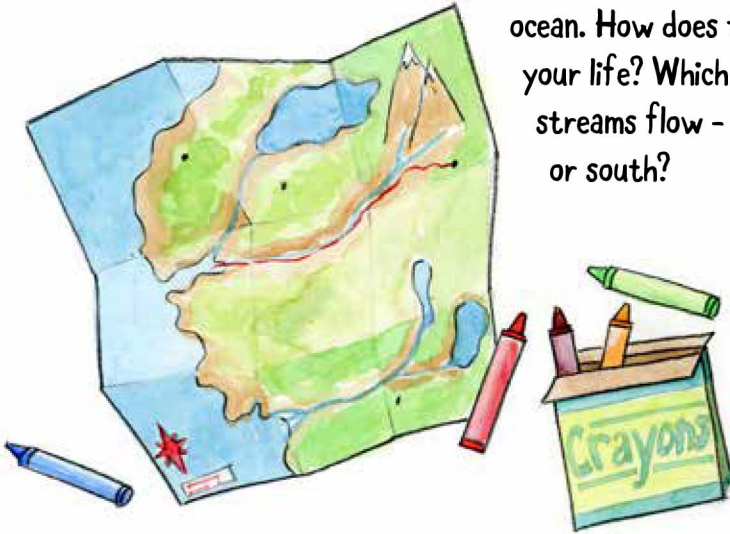
Alive!



Learn About the Ocean

1. Trace Your Ocean Connection

Taking a look at a map, point out your house and find the ocean you are closest to. Trace the rivers and streams that connect you to the ocean. How does the ocean affect your life? Which direction do the streams flow - east, west, north, or south?



2. Get the Word Out!

Did you know that local newspapers love to hear from kids and families in their communities?

Write a "Letter to the Editor."

Tell them how important you think the ocean is and why it's so important to protect it.

Let us know if your letter gets

published. We'll give you an "environmental superhero shout-out" on our website.

It's likely you'll make a big "splash!"



3. Organize a Clean-Up

Do you see trash along your local streets or in parks? You can make a difference by organizing a community clean-up! Run the idea by an adult first, then call up some friends and head out on a trash-collecting hike. Be “trash-smart” and use gloves and



a trash-grabber to avoid touching sharp objects, chemicals, or broken glass. Consider organizing a regular Clean-Up Day through your school, library, or other community organization. Make it a game by keeping track of how many bags or pounds of trash you collect. Send us some photos of your expedition and we'll give you a shout-out at KidinaKilt.com!

4. Follow the Water Cycle

Where does water come from, and where does it go? Do you know how rain is formed? Set up a bucket outside to collect rainwater, then measure with a ruler how much you get after a good soaking shower. You can use that water to nourish your garden or indoor plants! In your area, does the most rain fall in winter, spring, summer or autumn? Here are some vocabulary words to help you understand how the water cycle works:

- Transpiration - when a plant “exhales” water vapor.
- Evaporation - the process of turning a liquid (like water) into a gas (like water vapor).
- Condensation - The process of turning a gas (like water vapor) into a liquid (like water).



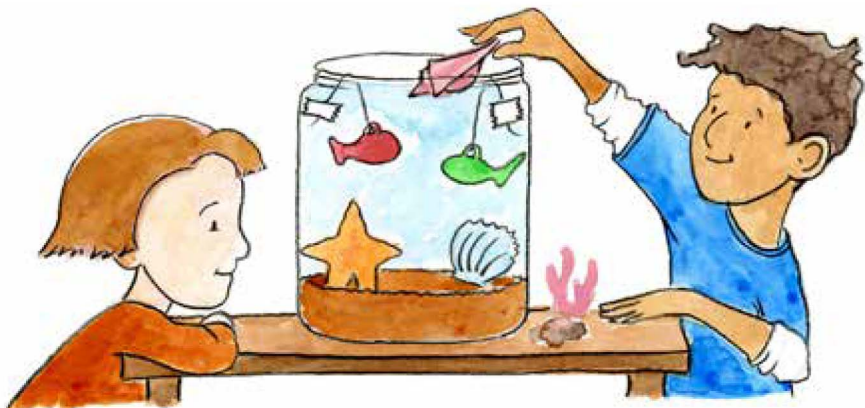
5. Wrangle Water Wisdom!

What would you name an ocean if you discovered one? Did you know that the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic and Southern Oceans connect to make up one global ocean with currents that flow around the planet? Did you also know that more than half of the oxygen we breathe is produced by tiny ocean plants like phytoplankton and other algae? For more information about these amazing facts, visit the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website. If you find some fun facts on rivers, lakes, and seas, send them to Daniel McFly at author@kidinakilt.com. We will post a selection of responses at KidinaKilt.com, so others can learn from your research. Keep checking back to see if your facts were posted too!



6. Ocean in a Jar

Create a tabletop ocean scene in a big glass bottle or jar. Add some sand at the bottom, fill with water, a few drops of blue food coloring and details like toy sea stars, jellyfish, sea horses, seashells, or other fishy figurines. You can suspend "swimming animals" with a bit of clear fishing line secured from the cap or lid. Don't forget to glue the lid on when you're finished decorating. Send a picture of your ocean scene to author@kidinakilt.com so we can share your creation on KidinaKilt.com!

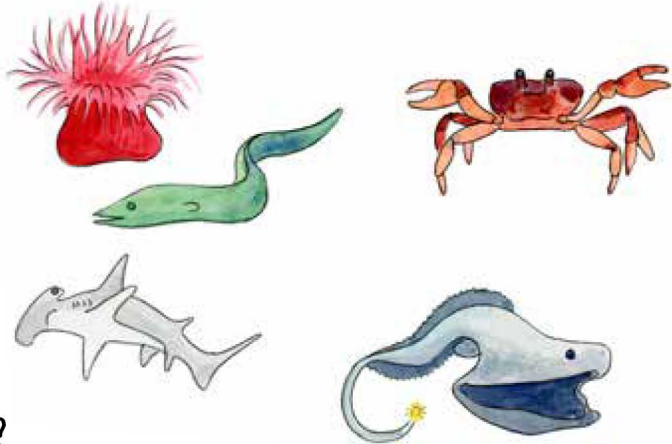


7. Name That Sea Animal!

Have you ever played the “Guess My Animal” game? It’s a great way to learn about aquatic animals and their roles in ocean ecosystems. Try to stump your teachers, parents, and friends by choosing unique sea animals that they may not know about. First think of an aquatic animal, then give hints to see if anyone can guess which animal you chose!

Here are some questions to get you started:

- Does it live in freshwater or in salt water, or both?
- Can it breathe under water?
- Does it have legs, fins, or neither?
- Is it bioluminescent?
- Can it crawl out onto the land?
- In which ocean zone does it live?



8. Natural Water Filter

“Upcycle” a 2-liter bottle by cutting the bottom off with the help of an adult.

Place the bottle upside down into a jar.

Layer cotton balls inside the bottle, add about an inch of small pieces of activated charcoal, then a few inches of gravel or small stones. Pour in muddy water and let it drip out the cap end. See how much clearer the water is after it goes through your filter (but don’t drink it)! Older kids can use water-testing kits to detect different pollutants, minerals, & chemicals, before & after filtering.

Why do you think it’s important to have access to clean water? How much of your body is made of water?





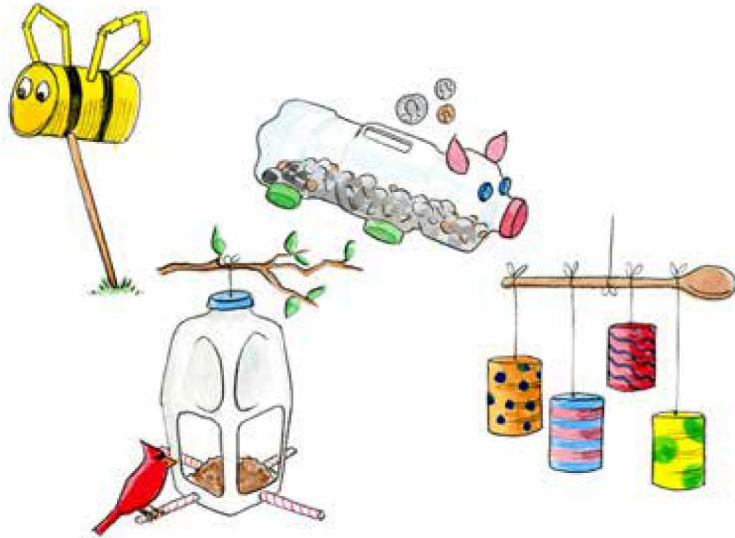
9 Topographical Watershed Map

Using a board or baking sheet as a base, and colored modeling dough or papier mache, build a relief map of watersheds (river or stream ecosystems) in your area. Be sure to include high areas like mountains, hills, and plateaus, and low areas like valleys and basins. Create little buildings to represent communities along the watershed out of paper or other small objects you find. Locate the areas where the rivers and lakes might be. Which direction does the water appear to flow? From where does it come? How does the elevation of the landscape change the flow of water? To make your own modeling dough, try out this recipe!

Modeling dough recipe:

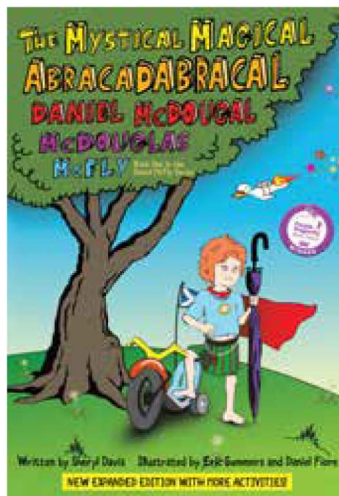
- 2 cups of flour
- 1 cup salt
- 4 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 cups of boiling water (make sure to ask an adult for help!)
- Food coloring of your choice

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl and knead until smooth. You can even make different Earth colors by adding green, brown, or blue food coloring. Be sure to send us pictures so we can post them on Daniel's website, KidInaKilt.com! P.S., Daniel thinks this makes a great school science project!



10. Upcycled Art

We all know about recycling, but “upcycling” is when you create something new out of something old. Create your own ocean art by upcycling materials around your home. You could use materials like container lids, tissue paper, buttons, yarn, egg cartons and other packing materials. You can even use natural materials you find outside. Have fun using your imagination to create something beautiful or useful. Send pictures of your art to author@kidinakilt.com and let us know what materials you used.



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