

This adaptation is designed to modify the Population Education lesson Web of Life for use with marine education. Get the full lesson plan for Web of Life [here](#).

OCEAN COMMUNITY STORY

Instructions to the Students: “Imagine that you’re no longer in the classroom, but outside at the beach on a warm, sunny day. You are surrounded by the sounds of the ocean waves and can smell the salty sea. You feel the warmth of the sun and the breeze of the wind. Imagine that you are becoming a part of the ocean pictured on your name tag.

I’m going to read a story about the ocean, which shows how important each member of the ocean is to all the other members. When I read your part of the ocean, a classmate will pass you a ball of yarn. Take hold of the yarn. When I read the next member’s name, keep holding onto the yarn and roll the ball to that new person.

Remember, don’t let go of your part of the yarn. Hold it down on the floor so I can walk around inside the circle and help pass the yarn to the next person.”

Interactive Story: Everything in the ocean begins with the **SUN**. The rays of the sun shine through the surface of the ocean to bring energy down below.

At the bottom of the ocean, **SEAWEED** and other underwater plants reach up for the sunlight. Stretch your arms up to the sky like you’re an underwater plant reaching for the sun’s light [With older students, you can discuss the process of photosynthesis where plants use the sun’s energy to grow]. The seaweed makes the salty water home. The movement of **WATER** helps carry important nutrients to every corner of the ocean. Tiny little ocean organisms, like **PLANKTON**, rely on the movement of the water to drift and feed.

The ocean is bursting with life! A **FISH** swims by looking for something to eat. It spots a cloud of plankton that would make a delicious lunch. The fish is swimming towards its home in a **CORAL** reef where many other fish live. The coral reef is also a home for a **CRAB** that scuttles around on the ocean floor. The crab helps keep the ocean clean by eating waste. In a quiet corner, an **OCTOPUS** peeks out from its den. It watches the fish and crab, ready to hunt if one gets close. The fish darts away and the crab burrows into the **SAND** to hide.

The sand makes up the ocean floor and the beach at the water’s edge. A **SEA TURTLE** has laid her eggs on the sandy beach. She heads to the water to find some seaweed to munch. A powerful **SHARK** swims by. The shark spots the sea turtle as its next meal. It swims towards the sea turtle but misses it at the last second. The mighty shark decides to have some fish for lunch instead.

Above the surface of the water, a **SEAGULL** is flying low and looking for a snack. It stops along the beach where people are enjoying the sunny day. Two **PEOPLE** walk along the beach. They are visiting the ocean, picking up trash, and watching birds dive into the waves. The sand beneath their feet holds shells, coral pieces, and homes for burrowing creatures. The people admire a beautiful **SEASHELL** and take it home with them to remember the fun beach day. Even though people don't live in the ocean, they are part of this ocean life too. Their choices affect all of the creatures who call the ocean home.

Discussion Questions

1. How did the people affect the ocean community in this story?
2. What would happen if the plankton disappeared?
3. What if the coral reef was damaged by pollution or climate change?
4. If the water becomes dirty from pollution or warm from climate change, who feels it?
5. What might happen if the people left trash on the beach instead of cleaning it up?
6. How does this yarn web show the connection between ocean creatures?

OCEAN CHARACTER NAME TAGS



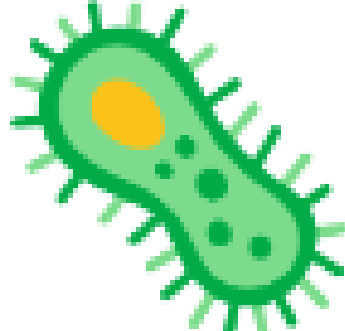
SUN



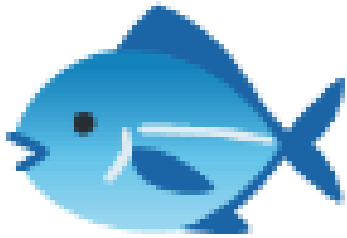
SEAWEED



WATER



PLANKTON



FISH



CORAL



CRAB



OCTUPUS



SAND



SEA TURTLE



SHARK



SEAGULL



PEOPLE



SEASHELL