



Paper Plate Porthole

Introduction

In the book *In One Tidepool: Crabs, Snails, and Salty Tails* author Anthony Fredericks introduces us to a young girl exploring the different creatures that inhabit a single tidepool. In this activity, students will be able to create their own tidepool model to peek into!

Materials Needed

- ◆ Two paper plates per student
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Blue cellophane
- ◆ Birdseed
- ◆ Fish crackers

Procedure

1. Provide each student with two paper plates.
2. Invite each student to cut out a circular section from one plate and glue blue cellophane over the inside of the hole to create a water effect.
3. Encourage students to draw illustrations of seaweed, various tidepool creatures from *In One Tidepool*, and other underwater items on the face of the uncut paper plate.
4. Students may wish to glue birdseed on the "tidepool floor" to simulate sand or to use fish crackers to provide a 3-dimensional effect.
5. Invite students to glue or staple the two plates together (face to face) to create an imaginary "porthole" into a tidepool.

Key Concepts

- ◆ Models can be used in explanations.
- ◆ Tools help scientists make better observations, measurements, and equipment for investigations.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Invite students to put together an identification guide for various tidepool animals around the world. What types of tidepool creatures can be found in Europe, Africa or South America? How are tidepool animals on the West Coast of the US similar to, or different from, those on the East Coast?
- ◆ Invite youngsters to each take on the role of one of the animals in this book. Encourage them to do the necessary library research on the habits and behaviors of their selected animals. Then invite each youngster to write a diary entry - as his or her selected animal might record it - on a day in the life of that species.

Additional Resources

While the Paper Plate Porthole doesn't allow students to actually look into the depths of the ocean, this is a great starting point to talk about scientific inventions which have helped ocean explorers discover the deep. Here are some suggestions from *Earth Heroes: Champions of the Ocean* by Carol Malnor to discuss with students:

- ◆ Aqualung
- ◆ Bathyscaphe
- ◆ Bathysphere
- ◆ Diving Saucer
- ◆ Jim Suit
- ◆ Submersible

