



Under the Sea

Children are born scientists – they love to explore and discover. There are many activities that you can enjoy doing at home with your little scientist.

QUESTIONS

- What animals live in the ocean?
- Have you ever been to the beach and gone swimming in the ocean?

TRY THIS AT HOME

Hear the Ocean

You Will Need

- A large sea shell
- Your ear

WHAT TO DO

1. Hold the shell up to your ear.
2. It will sound like the ocean.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

It is not really the ocean that you are hearing. What you are hearing is the ambient noise around you. The shell resonates the sounds that go into it, making them louder. It also echoes them around. This means that rather than hearing individual noises and sounds, they all get blended together into one jumbled up sound, very similar to that of the ocean.

DISCOVER MORE

- Try with different sized shells.
- Try doing the same thing using a plastic cup. Try taping different things in the bottom of your cup and see if it sounds different. Things to try include cotton wool, aluminium foil or even crumpled paper!



DID YOU KNOW?

- Sharks and dolphins may look similar but they are very different. A shark is a big fish. It uses gills to breathe by filtering air out of the water. A dolphin is a mammal, like a human, and they breathe air like you do. They have to swim to the surface of the water to take a breath. Whales are also mammals and breathe air.
- Sound travels better under water than through the air. Whales communicate by making very long, low pitched sounds, known as whale songs. These sounds travel long distances through the water, allowing the whales to hear each other from hundreds of kilometres away. This is much further than sound travels on land.

Science Time



TRY THESE OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Tap the side of the bath with a spoon. Listen to the sound with your head above the water. Then put your head under the water, keeping your face above water so that you can still breathe, and listen to how loud the sound is.

SING SONGS

Sing this song with your child. Don't forget to do the actions if you know them!

Here is the Sea

Here is the sea, the wavy sea
Here is a boat and here is me
And little fishes, way down below
Wiggle their tail and away they go

READ BOOKS

Have fun finding more at your local library, book store or online.

- *Ocean (DK Eyewitness Books)*
by Miranda MacQuitty
- *Seashore (DK Eyewitness Books)*
by Steve Parker
- *The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor*
Scholastic Publishing

GO ON AN EXCURSION

Go on an under the sea excursion! Here are some suggestions in the Canberra region.

- Canberra's National Zoo and Aquarium and see the many underwater creatures.
- Go to your local pet shop and look at all the different animals that swim in the water. There will be many different species of fish. There may also be small turtles called terrapin or hermit crabs.
- Go for a family holiday to the coast. When you visit the beach collect shells of different sizes and colours.

INVESTIGATE WEBSITES

There are also many websites for children about animals that live under the sea.

- **Danielle's Place** Under the Sea Craft
www.daniellesplace.com
- **KidCyber** Interesting facts about sea animals
www.kidcyber.com.au
- **Cybrary** Learn more about the ocean
www.cybrary.org/ocean.htm
- For detailed info about some ocean creatures
www.homeschooling.gomilpitas.com