

Title: BE A BEACHCOMBER
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Grade Level: K-3

Concepts:
1. The Sun
2. Ecosystem
11. Individual Acts
12. Stewardship

Disciplines:
1. Language Arts
2. Mathematics
3. Social Studies
4. Science

Objective:

Children will learn to distinguish between the natural things washing up on a beach and that which is litter. Natural material is biodegradable and so it is recycled.

Rationale:

Children can learn to develop their keen sense of observation while beach combing. Such items as sea glass, pieces of Danish pottery, shells, rocks, crabs or casts of crabs, insects, fish, birds, as well as litter, can be observed and classified.

Materials Needed:

Pad of paper, pencil, small bag to collect treasure

Directions/Activity:

In the classroom: Discuss probable items that you might be able to find while beachcombing along the sand and the waters edge. Discuss animals you might see while at the beach site. Pelicans, Boobys, Terns, Fish, Crabs, Mosquitos, Flies and other insects. Explain that other debris may also be found.

At the beach site: Walk slowly alone or in groups of two along the sand and the waters edge. Look carefully, what can you find? The beach changes everyday with a different assortment of treasures to find. On one adventure a collection of old pieces of Danish pottery dating back to the 1700's might have washed up. On another occasion, an assortment of dainty pink shells might grace the beach.

Have the children collect those items which they find appealing, and place them in their personal collection bag. Animals may be observed, but not touched. Pictures may be drawn of living creatures. Crab shell casts may be carefully collected. Have them collect some of the trash that can be found.

Back in the classroom, children may present their collection of treasures and explain to the other students why each is valuable to them.

With some of the litter, have children try to explain how it got there - Cast out by people on ships and boats or discarded by people along the beach.

Children may sort their collections as to likes and differences - shells, rocks, sea glass, and pottery.

Objects may be counted. How many shells do you have?

How many pieces of sea glass?

Mathematics problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division may be devised.