

# Marine Baby Bio

## Goals

- To describe the early stages of marine animal life cycles
- To compare and contrast baby marine animals with their parents
- To practice creative writing skills



**Overview:** Students research the early stages of a marine animal's life cycle and then, in the persona of that animal, write a brief autobiography.

## Materials

- "Marine Baby Bio" template or design of student's choice
- Print and electronic resources on ocean animals

## Directions

1. As a class, brainstorm a list of ocean animals. Be sure to include fish, reptiles, and mammals. Tell students they will research the life of a marine baby and then write the story of that animal's first days or weeks. Let students work individually or in small groups, and have them choose a marine animal from your list.
2. Brainstorm some questions students might want to answer. For example, is the animal born live or hatched from an egg? How big is the baby? How is the baby like its parents and how is it different? What can the baby do and not do when it is first born? Which adults, if any, take care of the baby? For younger students, you may choose one animal and work as a class.
3. When students have completed their research, ask them to imagine they are the animal and write a description of their first days or weeks after birth.



**Directions** (*continued*)

4. Have students play the role of the animals and tell the class what it was like to be that baby marine animal. Encourage students to imagine both the adventures and challenges of being a baby marine animal.

**Stationery Studio Extensions**

- Have students write a story about a marine animal's adventure looking for food, escaping a predator, making friends, or traveling around the ocean.
- Encourage students to extend their research to include the entire life cycle of their animal.
- Have students research an endangered or threatened marine animal and find out during which phases of its life cycle its survival is most threatened.
- Bind students' stories in a book called "Marine Babies".
- Ask students to write letters in the persona of baby marine animals letting their mothers know how they're doing. (Several border and envelope sets are ideal for this activity.)