

Ocean Animal Defense

Goals

- To understand that ocean animals defend themselves in a variety of ways
- To research an ocean animal and explain how it defends itself
- To practice expository writing skills



My animal's name:

Sometimes this animal is attacked by

It defends itself by

My animal looks like this:

The form includes a blue border and a small illustration of various ocean animals at the bottom.

Overview: Students choose an ocean animal and then research and report on its defense system.

Materials

- “Ocean Animal Defense” template
- Print and electronic resources on ocean animals

Directions

1. As a class, brainstorm ways in which a variety of animals, both land and sea, defend themselves – camouflage, body armor, trickery, chemical sprays, speed, and so on. Ask students to give examples of animals that use each defense.
2. Tell students that ocean animals also have special ways to defend themselves. Ask them to choose a marine animal to research.
3. Give students copies of the “Ocean Animal Defense” template to record their findings. Students should list predators that might attack the animal, and explain how the animal’s defense system protects it. Ask students to draw a picture of the animal depicting its defense system.



Directions *(continued)*

4. Have students share their animals with the class. For each animal, ask the class to name other animals, marine or otherwise, that use the same kind of defense. For example, if a student researched a fish that uses camouflage, students might mention other marine animals that use camouflage, or they might mention a land animal like a leopard.

Stationery Studio Extensions

- Have students write a story about a marine animal and how it fended off an attack.
- Ask students to invent a marine animal and equip it with a defense system.
- Have students suggest a creative way to adapt a marine animal defense system to protect something special like their pets, their bicycles, or their homes.