

Ocean Home Hunters

Goals

- To identify different ocean habitats
- To research and describe an animal's habitat
- To practice creative writing skills



Overview: Students choose an ocean animal, research the habitat in which that animal lives, and write a want ad describing the kind of home that animal needs.

Materials

- “Ocean Home Hunters” template or a design of the student’s choice
- Print and electronic resources on ocean animals

Directions

1. As a class, review different ocean habitats – estuary or lagoon, shore, tidal pool, coral reef, sunlight zone, twilight zone, midnight zone, and abyss.
2. Let each student or pair of students choose an ocean animal and identify its habitat from the list above. Ask students to research the habitat and identify the location and depth, temperature, light, food sources, and other characteristics.
3. Tell students to pretend their animals are looking for homes. Ask them to write, in the persona of each animal, a want ad describing the kind of home that animal needs.



Directions (*continued*)

4. Have students read their want ads to the class without telling them the name of the animal or where it usually lives. Ask the class to decide what habitat would suit that animal. Then ask the class to guess what animal wrote the ad.

Stationery Studio Extensions

- Ask students to draw their animals in their new homes and write, in the persona of the animals, why they do or do not like their new homes.
- Have students react to the ads in the persona of another animal from the same or a different ocean habitat. Ask them to tell the animal who is seeking a home why their community would or would not be a safe, friendly, and comfortable place for that animal. Students may want to use a friendly letter format and choose one of the border and envelope sets.