



A Fish Tale

Objective:

The student will be able to create an original work of fiction.

Materials Needed:

- Paper and pencil for each student
- School library
- Computer encyclopedia
- Classroom history book

Activity:

Students are to think of something famous that happened or took place on the sea. Some examples might be:

1. The sinking of the Titanic
2. The mysterious disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle
3. The Civil War battle of the Ironclad ships
4. Pirates who plundered other ships on the sea
5. The voyages of the Vikings
6. Columbus' discovery of America
7. The first voyage around the world by Magellan
8. Important battles at sea during World War I and World War II
9. The Spanish Armada
10. The eruption of underwater volcanoes that formed Hawaii

Ask students to write a poem (rhymed, free verse, limerick, etc.) or short story **from the fish's perspective** about the famous event they have chosen. Students are to use their imaginations to have the fish describe all of the exciting details that occurred during the famous event. Encourage the students to use action verbs, colorful adjectives and funny phrases to add lots of pizzazz to their work of fiction.

Invite students to read their creations aloud to the rest of the class after all re-writes and corrections are finished.

Result:

Students learn how to use their imaginations to embellish a story and make it really come alive for themselves and the listening audience.



Fish Book Report

Objective:

The students will be able to design a creative book report and write a detailed review of a book with a fish theme.

Materials Needed:

Depends upon the method of book report selected, but some materials might include:

- A shoebox
- Poster paper
- Markers/crayons
- Colorful scraps of paper or fabric
- Small toys from home

Activity:

Provide students with a reading list of books with a fish theme. More advanced students could read children's abridged versions of such classics as *The Old Man and the Sea* or *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

Give students several weeks to bring in a book report using one of the designs listed below. The book's title, author, plot, main characters and most memorable part must be included in the report.

1. Make a "Shoebox Float" that carries out the theme of the book. Decorate the shoebox as colorfully as possible and use dolls or stuffed animals as the characters in the book.
2. Make an oversized "Book Marker" based on the selection. Both sides of the book marker may be decorated.
3. Make a "Book Cover" that is colorfully decorated to fit a normal sized textbook.
4. Make a "Poster" that illustrates the book's themes.
5. Design the box for a computer game or a video game based on the book.
6. Create a diorama (a scenic 3-D display) in a shoebox that illustrates the student's favorite scene from the book.

Result:

When the book reports are due, have students share them with the class. Display the reports around the room.



Fish Food TV Commercial

Objective:

The student will be able to create a 30-second television commercial advertisement for a Tetra fish food product.

Materials Needed:

- A video recorder (like on an iPod or phone)
- A Tetra fish food product or a drawing of the product
- Paper and pencil for each student

Activity:

Ask students to name some of their favorite television commercials. If possible, the teacher could tape some TV commercials and show them to the class. After viewing the commercials or discussing favorite commercials, ask:

1. What product is the ad attempting to sell?
2. What are some sales techniques that the ad uses to appeal to the viewer?
3. Does the ad create a desire to buy?
4. What type of audience is the ad trying to reach? (Children, seniors, working men and women, sports enthusiasts, etc.)
5. Do you think that the ad accomplishes its goal?

If any of the students has a parent working in the advertising or marketing profession, extend an invitation to talk to the class about the "ABCs" of advertising.

Divide the students into pairs. Each pair is to design a 30-second commercial for one of Tetra's fish food products. The advertisement must include a slogan and a creative reason to purchase the product. Students are strongly encouraged to think "out of the box" for this lesson: music, illustrations, zany costumes and props are allowed if students can access everything easily. Give students several days to prepare, practice and polish the commercial.

Record each pair's commercial. Invite the parents in for a TV premiere and play all of the commercials on the computer as parents eat a snack (goldfish crackers!) and watch. Give parents a brief rating sheet so that the ad's slogan, message and creativity can be scored on a 1-10 scale. At the conclusion of the viewing, parents are to vote on the commercial that does the best job of selling the product. (Voting is not mandatory; be sure to praise all of the students on their efforts.)

Students will become aware of how advertising is a persuasive communication medium and how their words can affect their audience to make a choice—to buy or not to buy. Consider presenting an Oscar-style award to the team that won the parent vote.



Fish Hunt

Objective:

The student will be able to participate in a variety of classroom and home activities that will prepare him/her for a year-long study of fish. This lesson would be most effective if conducted near the beginning of the school year.

Materials Needed:

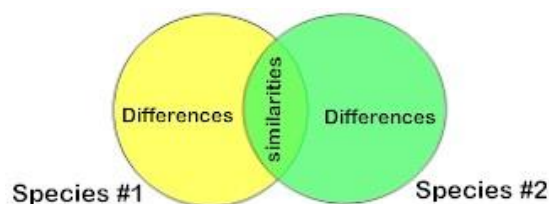
- Paper and pencil for each student

Activity: In order to effectively prepare students for the aquarium education program, encourage the students to participate in any or all of the activities below.

1. Ask students to name all the different kinds of fish that they have seen in aquariums, at home, at school or in the community.
2. As a homework assignment, tell students to go on a "Fish Hunt" at home. They should bring a list of as many places as possible that they see fish in the home.
3. Allow students to use classroom computers (or they can do this from home) to e-mail other classrooms around the country or around the world and ask these far-away students what types of fish are found in their communities. Post the return e-mails on the class bulletin board.
4. Designate a bulletin board in the classroom to display all of the students' fishy creations, along with important charts about the classroom aquarium, throughout the year.
5. Ask students to name different kinds of fish that get their names from other objects (such as GOLDFish, ANGELfish, CLOWNfish, etc.)
6. Ask students to name as many sayings, puns, slogans or other funny expressions that use fish terms (such as "something fishy's going on" or "she swims like a fish").
7. If possible, take a field trip to a local aquarium, a large regional aquarium, or invite a local aquatics specialist to give a talk to the class.

Ask students to create a Venn diagram showing the similarities and differences between two different species of fish. Students could work in pairs or small groups on this activity.

Venn Diagram:



Result: Ask students to name at least three new things that they learned about fish when doing one or more of these activities.



Fish Research Report

Objective:

The student will be able to select a species of fish, research facts about this fish, and write a report.

Materials Needed:

- Paper and pencil for each child
- Reference books
- Encyclopedia (computer or book)
- Index cards, size 3x5

Activity:

Ask each student to select any particular species of fish (tropical, marine, cichlid, shark, etc.). Allow them to research facts about their fish and show them how to take brief notes on 3x5 index cards, write a bibliography, put facts in their own words and write an outline for a research report. (This report does not have to be as extensive as a term paper, but some of the same mechanics might apply in a simpler format.) Students can illustrate the written report with a picture of their chosen fish. They could even label the parts of its body and perhaps draw a picture of the body of water and part of the world in which their species of fish is typically found. Invite students to share their report with the rest of the class.

Result:

Students learn how to use reference materials, research facts, analyze data, and write a brief research report. The teacher can instruct students on important skills such as writing an outline, re-wording a concept found in reference materials and presenting material in a logical format.