

5 E's Lesson Plan on Dolphins
Central Washington University
Department of Education

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School: Central Washington University

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Grade Level: 5th Grade

UNIT/SUBJECT: The Ocean

LESSON TITLE/FOCUS: Dolphin Research Project and Presentation

Input

Our class is doing a unit on the ocean, learning about the different animals in the ocean. And this lesson focuses on the mammals, the dolphins.

Lesson Objective (Learning Targets)

1. Given the paper clip activity and lesson, the students will demonstrate their understanding of different types of dolphins by researching information and presenting it in front of the class in power point.
2. **EALRs**
Science 2.1, Communication 1.2 and 4.2, Writing 1.1
NETS
3 and 5

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Pack of paper clips (enough for each students to have 4)

- Pencils (enough for each student to have one)
- Computers with internet to play sounds of dolphins (<http://www.thedolphinplanet.org/funmain.htm>) and for students to look on internet for facts.
- Computers with Power Point for students to make their presentations.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES:

1. Introduction (Anticipatory Set/Engagement):

To get the students thinking, I will ask them if they know how dolphins are similar to humans. There are many similarities: They can communicate with each other, they know who each other are, they are affectionate to each other, they cooperate, they help each other out, they are intelligent, and they are sympathetic.

2. Learning Activities

Engage:

Time: 2-3 minutes

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Explore:

Time: 4 minutes

The students will first individually try to pick up paper clips with their pencils without lifting their pencil or using their hands. Once they have tried for one minute, I will put them into groups of two and have them try to pick up paper clips with each other. I will ask them to try to get as many as they can in one minute. Lastly I will put them into groups of three and ask them to do the same thing. This activity shows that it is easier to work with others and in a group to get some stuff done.

This is just like dolphins when they try to catch fish. One way dolphins catch food

is by working together in their pod. Some of the dolphins go underneath a school of fish and make the fish swim up to the surface. This makes it so the fish do not have a lot of room to swim around. When the fish do not have a lot of room to swim around, all the dolphins swim through the fish and eat them. It would be very hard to catch fish on their own if they did it this way by themselves.

Explain:

Time: 20 minutes

Now I will tell the students information about dolphins.

1. Dolphins are like humans because:

- They can communicate with each other (play sounds from website)
- They know who each other are. Because they all have different sounds, they know who each other by their sounds.
- They are affectionate to each other. They swim next to each other with their fins touching. They like to touch each other and play with each other.
- They cooperate. Just like the paper clip activity, they use each other to catch fish.
- They help each other out. When one of the dolphins is sick or weak, others dolphins will swim underneath it so it can breathe. They will stay by each others' sides until the dolphin is o.k.
- They are intelligent. Humans can train dolphins to do many things.
- They are sympathetic. They can understand emotions and try to help each other and humans.
- They are mammals. They do not lay eggs, they have babies like people do. Mamas are pregnant and have their babies.

2. Food dolphins eat:

- Anchovies
- Herring
- Squid
- Shrimp
- Jelly fish

3. Dolphins catch fish by:

- Having some dolphins swim underneath a school of fish and make the fish swim up to the surface. This makes it so the fish do not have a lot of room to swim around. When the fish do not have a lot of room to swim around, all the dolphins swim through the fish and eat them. It would be very hard to catch fish on their own if they did it this way by themselves.
- Use their tail to smack a fish out of the water and then when the fish is falling down, the dolphin catches it in its mouth head first. Dolphins eat their fish head first.
- Dolphins also make sounds that echo into the water and once it hits a fish/food, it echoes back to the dolphin. The dolphin knows how far away the food is by how long it took for the echo to come back. It's like a boomerang, you throw it and it comes back to you.

4. Breathing

- Some dolphins can hold their breath up to 15 minutes!
- Dolphins shut down part of their brain when they sleep. The part that is "on," is focusing on when to breathe. The dolphins stay near the surface, and when it is time for the dolphin to breathe, it just floats up to the top and takes a breath and then goes back down to where it was.

Elaborate:

Time: 3-4 Days in Computer Lab

Now that the students have learned some great information, it is time for them to go beyond. I will group students up and have them pick one certain type of dolphin and research information on it. The groups will present their information on power point.

Evaluate:

Time: 1 hour

The students will present their findings in power point in front of the class. I will be grading their presentations according to the rubric below.

3. Checking for Understanding/Questions: After each day, I will ask the students how they are doing finding information on the internet and putting it together in their power point presentation.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:

To grade this project/presentation, we have provided a rubric. [Click here to view the rubric](#)

GROUPING OF STUDENTS FOR INSTRUCTION:

This assignment requires students to be in groups according to language and learning abilities. Students that take longer in the learning process will be put in groups with students that do not have a hard time with school. Also, students that speak another language will be put in groups with students that speak both that language and english.

LESSON PLAN RATIONALE

Learning Target(s)

Connecting Learning Targets with EALRs and NETS

- Science 2.1 Develop abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry. Students will generate questions to put their data together to do their presentations on various species of dolphins.
- Communication 1.2 Listen and observe to gain and interpret information. Students will record and report observations, explanations, and conclusions using oral and written expression.
- Communication 4.2 Seek and offer feedback. Seek and use feedback to improve communication; offer suggestions and comments to others. Students will communicate with guidance, offer feedback on other's presentation with regard to content and organization. The students will also accept feedback when appropriate and revise own presentation.
- Writing 1.1 Develop concept and design. Develop a topic or theme; organize written thoughts with a clear beginning, middle, and end; use transitional sentences and phrases to connect related ideas; write coherently and effectively. Students will demonstrate elaboration through examples, details, facts, and/or reasons, etc. Through the presentation, the students will show facts and details about the dolphins that are unique from other dolphins.
- **NETS 3** Technology Productivity Tools: Students use technology (the internet), to enhance learning by researching facts and other interesting information on the internet about dolphins. Students will use technology by researching information on the internet for their presentation.
- **NETS 5** Technology Research Tools: Students use technology by looking through the information, deciding what they want to use to present and then present it on power point in front of the class.