

Week 3 – Activity

Activity 1 – Video Exploration

Explore and discover three oceanic and coastal national parks in the United States. Each park consists of unique features while still focusing on the surrounding oceans and sea waters they cover. All of the YouTube videos from Harpers Ferry Center NPS are audio described.

[Channel Islands National Park: Treasure in the Sea](#)

[Gulf Islands National Seashore: Stories of Survival](#)

[Ribbon of Sand: Cape Lookout National Seashore](#)

Activity 2 – Ocean Sensory Bin

This play can be done at any age but would be perfect for sensory seeking kids. It's a relatively inexpensive activity to do through the summer.

Suggested Supplies

Many supplies can be found at Dollar Tree.

- Sensory sand (and/or you could use aquarium rock)
- Glass accent gems
- Decorative shells
- Sea glass accent gems
- Sea creature toys
- Blue food coloring
- Water
- Large plastic container/tub

Instructions

1. Most tutorials I found have you create a “beach” side to the bin using shells and rocks to create a barrier between the water and beach. You can also try putting sand and/or rock all across the bottom of the bin.
2. Use 2-3 drops of the blue food coloring to the water and mix it up, then fill your sensory bin partway with your blue water.
3. Put your accent gems, shells, sea creatures and anything else that belongs in the ocean on the bottom.

Go exploring with your new ocean sensory bin.

Courtesy of [green kid crafts](#)

Activity 3 – Ocean Zones

Explore the ocean zones with this activity. Assistance may be required.

Supplies

- 5 small glass or plastic bottles/jars (Note: 4 oz jelly or 8 oz canning mason jars are great and easy to find options. Many grocery stores carry them.)
- Blue food coloring
- Water
- Spoon
- Sea creatures (optional; toys/figurines)

Instructions

1. Fill the bottles/jars with water.
2. Add five drops of blue food coloring one of the bottles and stir with spoon or shake with lid on. The color should look black.

3. Add three drops of blue food coloring to the next bottle and stir with spoon or shake with lid on. This will result in a blue a few shades lighter than the previous bottle.
4. Add one drop of blue food coloring to the third bottle and stir with spoon or shake with lid on. This will result in a blue two or three shades lighter than the second bottle.
5. Take the spoon you stirred with and stir the fourth bottle. If you shook the bottles, pour just a few drops of water from the third bottle into the fourth and shake. This will be many shades lighter.
6. Pour or spoon just a drop or two of water from the fourth bottle into the last bottle. It should barely tint the water.
7. Make the lids are tight on all containers.

You now have representations of the 5 zones of the oceans, from darkest to lightest: trench, abyss, midnight, twilight, and sunlight. You can label your jars. We will provide the .brf file for braille labels if you have an embosser at home, or just ask us and we'll send already embossed labels to you!

Find out more about the ocean zones at:

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/all-about-the-ocean>.

Adapted from [I can Teach My Child](#) and [Natural Beach Living](#).