



Activity plan from the Seattle Aquarium



Beach teacher resource (K-2nd grade)

Topics to discuss with your students before you go

Here are some ways to visit the beach safely and responsibly, including how to treat the animals with care.

Touch animals gently with one science finger.

- A science finger is a gentle finger that is used for learning. It is different from poking or petting.
- Have your students touch the top of their ear, eyelashes or nose to practice soft touches that won't harm animals.
- Remind your students that the animals who live on the beach are alive just like they are and need to be treated with respect.
- Don't try to pick up any animals.

Watch where you step!

- When entering the beach, you and your students are entering the home of marine animals.
- Make sure to step carefully because animals often hide under sand and rocks to stay safe, and we don't want to hurt them.

Don't take home shells or rocks.

- Animals like hermit crabs use abandoned seashells as a home. As they grow, they will move into larger shells. If we remove all the beautiful shells, these animals won't be able to find the bigger homes they need.
- Barnacles, limpets, sea stars and other animals live clinging to rocks. If we remove rocks from the beach, we take away their homes.

Leave the beach cleaner than you found it.

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- At the beach, you'll be in the animals' neighborhood. Please make sure all items that you bring to the beach also go back home with you. If you see trash on the beach, please do your best to safely pick it up! Animals can mistake human trash for food and that's not good for them to eat.

Supplemental lesson plan

Educators at the Seattle Aquarium have created a bingo card scavenger hunt called Hide & Salish Sea geared toward students aged K–2nd grade. This bingo card is intended for students to use with the assistance of an adult or chaperone when on the beach. It includes an array of organisms that are generally easy to find no matter what beach you visit in the Puget Sound area.

Prior to your beach visit, we suggest reviewing the various kinds of animals the students might find (crabs, sea stars, etc.) on the beach. This will help them to more easily identify the animals on the bingo card. Talk to them about what body parts make it easy to recognize each type of animal (e.g., crabs have pincers). The Seattle Aquarium has species ID guides available in several languages that can be found on our Beach Naturalist program [webpage](#).

If your students are unfamiliar with the idea of a scavenger hunt or game of bingo, it would be good to play both of those games in the classroom prior to your trip.

Tips for teachers: Things to keep in mind about your beach

It is a good idea to make sure that you and your chaperones know where the bus can load and unload, where any bathrooms and water fountains are, the terrain of the beach, and how long the walk from the buses to the beach will be. You can find this information about some of the local beaches on our [webpage](#).

Make sure that you and your chaperones are prepared to safely clean up any trash you encounter on the beach. Do not pick up items that could pose a risk to your health. Remind your students to always let their adult know before picking up any trash that they might find.

All of this will ensure a safe and smooth beach field trip.

Recommended beach supplies

- [] Trash bags for trash found or produced on the beach
- [] Copies of Hide & Salish Sea bingo card
- [] Writing utensils

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- ☐ Wet wipes or another way to clean hands
- ☐ Extra sunscreen
- ☐ Printed or pdf of the beach guide for your beach for you and chaperones to reference
- ☐ Extra water
- ☐ Basic first aid kit
- ☐ Printed or pdf version of a species identification (ID) guide

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