

Ocean Commotion Activity: Dioramas

An Activity for After Ocean Commotion

Lesson Objective

Student groups will make a model of an Ocean Commotion exhibit based on what they saw during the fieldtrip. These dioramas can be used as an informal assessment of student knowledge acquired at Ocean Commotion. Also, these dioramas could be part of a multimedia presentation on Ocean Commotion. (See lesson on Visual Presentations using computer software in this packet.) Students from several grade levels could combine various types of presentations for a school science expo or for a science open house.

Grade Level

Grades 3-8, group activity

Materials per group

Large shoe box or other cardboard box
Old magazines, catalogs
Paint, glue, thread spools, craft sticks, fabric scraps, other arts/craft materials (Check the bottom of your toy box for small toy figures, even Mardi Gras throws, Lego's, Barbie, and other doll house toys.)

Procedure

1. Students will select an exhibit at Ocean Commotion. Students can take photos, make drawings, and/or write description of materials and people at booth. Each person in the group can look for a special form of information at booth; such as, animal or plant materials, computer or technology use, artifacts, names and jobs of people present at the exhibit.
2. Students will make an Ocean Commotion diorama that represents what they observed at the exhibit. Dioramas do not have to be exact. Students can even make suggestions about possible appropriate materials that could be added to the exhibit.
3. Students should write a "New facts I learned" paragraph
4. Students should present their dioramas to the class and explain the work and purpose of their assigned exhibitor.

Assessment

Rubrics could include these factors:

- Neatness and creative use of materials
- Appropriate and adequate materials and information represented
- "New facts I learned" paragraph
- Oral presentations are clear and complete

Notes

- Students can refer to Ocean Commotion web site even after October, therefore students can still get information about exhibits.
- Dioramas could be displayed in library or used by students in lower grades when studying units on oceans, animals, transportation, etc.
- If possible, teachers could send pictures of dioramas to Ocean Commotion to share with the exhibitors

LA Science Frameworks

Section III: Assessment, Classroom Assessment 3. Assessment should include data from multiple sources. Varied assessment strategies provide opportunities for teachers to observe students as they conduct a variety of tasks in different settings. Student-generated products from group work, entries from individual journals, student-designed investigations and exhibitions, and student-constructed written responses are rich sources of data that enable teachers to determine students' understanding of science concepts and processes.

Ocean Commotion 2000: Becoming Stewards of Our Coast and Sea