

Celebrate With an Oceans Festival



Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Use various methods to show links between fresh water and ocean systems.



Method

Students of all ages prepare a celebration for Oceans Day (June 8).



Materials

- Varies by project

Background

June 8 was declared to be Oceans Day by the United Nations Earth Summit in 1992 to raise awareness of the importance of oceans and inspire us to care for them.

Once students have learned about oceans, encourage them to spread the word to family and community. Use the students' knowledge and imagination to celebrate Oceans Day. Emphasize fun, variety, and audience participation.

Here are a few ideas:

- Recruit a renowned speaker, musician or celebrity.
- Decorate with your own poems, posters, artwork, maps and displays.
- Play music with a maritime theme. Include a live choir production or interactive puppet show.
- Screen ocean videos or films from sources such as Jacques Cousteau, Discovery Channel or Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- Offer sea-related snacks (such as shellfish, sushi, and kelp) or create an ocean foods display.
- Display medicines and other products from the sea.
- Celebrate biodiversity with colourful wall murals.
- Write feature articles for a local newspaper or radio about local ocean-related issues.
- Organize activities with prizes, such as a fish pond, an oceanic dunk tank, or a sponge toss.
- Organize a colouring contest or a poster give-away.

For additional resources visit:

CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Education

Activity

1. Discuss what a festival is, identify your main audience, and brainstorm a list of activities.
2. Choose the best activities and assign groups to organize each.
 - Include "high profile" events, such as talks by well-known guest speakers, to attract your audience.
 - Use various methods to demonstrate actions to improve freshwater and ocean health.
3. Draw up a schedule and create a floor plan/map of events (use as handouts for festivalgoers).
 - Consider ease of access and washrooms.
 - If hosting a virtual festival, be sure to plan regular breaks.
4. Promote the event to your audience in time for them to plan to attend.
 - Use the school newsletter or, if you are hoping to draw broader community participation, local media.
5. Contact local media to cover your event as it takes place.
6. Have fun!

Extensions

- Connect with other events in your area.

Ocean Music

Give a little more life to your Oceans Day celebrations with some "Made in Canada" music. Here are a few recommended titles and artists.

- The Sounds of Atlantic Canada (Compilation), Stephen MacDonald Productions (www.atlantartists.com).
- A Taste of the Maritimes (Compilation), Quality Special Products. Silver Sea and Sailing Ships and Sailing Men by Evans and Doherty, Tall Ships Art Productions Ltd.
- Great Big Sea by Great Big Sea.
- Salish Sea by Holly Arntzen.

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