



Build a Starfish

Learn about the anatomy of a starfish, using a textured project.

Explain that while a starfish may look more like an ocean decoration, it is indeed a living sea creature! The texture of a starfish is hard and spiny, and it has tube feet on the underside of each arm. The feet have suction cups that help the starfish attach itself to rocks and capture food. After discussing the starfish's anatomy, let children build their own. Provide each child with a copy of the pattern (copy onto card stock) and have children paint the top side with glue. Then sprinkle sand or cornmeal on top for a pebbly texture. When dry, have children turn their starfish over and glue O-shaped cereal rings to the back for the starfish's tube feet. Allow the glue to dry; then hang the starfish from mobiles or add them to an ocean display.

Standards

- Knows that living things and nonliving objects are different
- Knows that animals have features that help them live in different environments

Ocean of Words

Create an ocean full of compound words, starting with *starfish*!

Make several copies of the pattern and cut them out. Write the word *starfish* on one pattern. Explain to students that this is a compound word: A word that is made up of two smaller words. Ask students to identify the two smaller words in *starfish*. Divide the class into small groups and provide each group with several copies of the pattern. Have each group brainstorm compound words and then write a word on each pattern. (For an additional challenge, see how many ocean-themed compound words children can think of, such as *seashell*, *seafood*, *blowfish*, and *jellyfish*. Cover a bulletin board with blue paper and then display the starfish on it. Place additional copies of the pattern in a basket nearby and encourage children to

Standards

- Uses basic elements of structural analysis, such as root words and compound words

add to the display when they come across additional compound words. Use your word list to write a story or poem together.

We Are All Stars!

This ocean-themed bulletin board celebrates students' strengths!

Cover a bulletin board with blue paper and add the title "We Are All Stars!" Make a copy of the pattern for each child and attach children's photos to the center of the starfish. Give children their starfish and invite them to write one accomplishment that they are proud of, such as "I can tie my shoes" or "I finished a chapter book." (You may want to laminate the starfish before students write on them. Students can write their accomplishment with a water-based marker, then erase and update it with a more recent accomplishment!) Display the starfish on a bulletin board and invite students to add other ocean decorations, such as seaweed, sea horses, fish, and shells.

Standards

- Has confidence in one's own abilities, including the ability to succeed



Book Links

- Little Star*** by Antonin Louchard (Hyperion, 2003). A little red starfish dreams of leaving the ocean to shine with the stars in the sky.
- Starfish*** by Edith Thacher Hurd (Crowell, 1962). A great resource for learning all about this amazing sea creature.
- Stars of the Sea*** by Allan Fowler (Children's Press, 2000). A fact-filled introduction to the world of the starfish.