Ocean Commotion Activity: Magazine Project


Lesson Objective
Student groups create an ocean magazine cover and table of contents.

Grade Level
Grades 5-8, group activity

Materials per group of 2
- Paper and drawing materials
- Old magazines (especially nature, fishing & environmental)
- Optional – computer with word processing software and drawing programs, and/or Internet access

Procedure
1. Students will create a magazine that contains stories and articles about some aspect of the ocean. Some examples of magazine types could include:
   - sports
   - ocean life (plant and/or animal)
   - future cities in the ocean
   - travel on the ocean
   - children’s ocean magazine
   - seafood cooking magazine
   - ocean entertainment
   - ocean gardening (algae, oysters, etc.)
   - sci-fi ocean magazine

2. Students will draw a magazine cover for a sample issue. Have students check magazine covers to determine the type of standard information found on most covers. Students can use a graphics program or standard drawing materials to create the cover. The cover must have an appropriate title, pictures, date, volume, price, etc.

3. Students will write a table of contents of appropriate articles that could be found in an issue. Have students check magazines to determine the format of a table of contents page. Colorful pictures, advertisements, page numbers, etc. should be included. The students do not need to actually write the articles.

4. Students should also create a back cover for this magazine.

Note
- Students could display their magazines in the school library near the magazine section.
- Students could write an appropriate article for extra credit.
- If this activity is done after the fieldtrip to Ocean Commotion, students could find information at the exhibits to help design the magazines.

Example Magazine Titles:
- Creatures of the Deep: Animals of the Deep Gulf of Mexico
- Wacky Waves: Ocean entertainment
- Lions & Tigers of the Sea: The Ultimate Journal on Shark Research
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Evaluation

Student Name: ________________________________ Date __________________
Partner (if any): ______________________________
Magazine Title: __________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Assigned Value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neatness</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Following directions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Cover: appropriate title, pictures, date, volume, price, illustration</td>
<td>15 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Table of Contents: appropriate list of stories, colorful pictures, advertisements, page numbers</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Back Cover: illustration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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</tbody>
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Comments:

LA Science Frameworks
LS-M-C3 - investigating major ecosystems and recognizing physical properties and organisms within each.
LS-M-C4 - explaining the interaction and interdependence of nonliving and living components within ecosystems.
LS-M-D1 - describing the importance of plant and animal adaptation, including local examples.

Ocean Commotion 2000: Becoming Stewards of Our Coast and Sea