

RESOURCE LIBRARY
ACTIVITY : 30 MINS

Sea Creature Trading Cards

Students create sea creature trading cards and trade them with their classmates.

GRADES

3 - 5

SUBJECTS

Geology

CONTENTS

1 PDF, 1 Link

OVERVIEW

Students create sea creature trading cards and trade them with their classmates.

For the complete activity with media resources, visit:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/sea-creature-trading-cards/>

Program



DIRECTIONS

1. Activate students' prior knowledge.

Explain to students that, millions of years ago, the oceans were full of incredible sea creatures, or marine reptiles. Some were very big. Some were fast swimmers. Ask: *What sea creatures might you encounter if you traveled 82 million years back in time?* Display the Sea Creature Trading Cards and have students preview them. Ask: *What do you already know about the six*

sea creatures on the cards?

2. Have students find facts about sea creatures and complete the cards.

Divide students into small groups. Print and distribute one copy of the Sea Creatures Trading Cards for each group. Then, have small groups use the Sea Monsters website to find information about their sizes, as well as fun facts about each. Have each group work together to complete the cards with the information.

3. Have small groups trade and compare cards.

Allow groups time to trade and compare cards. Then have a whole-class discussion. Ask: *Did other groups find any fun facts that you didn't?* Have groups add to their cards as they hear new information.

OBJECTIVES

Subjects & Disciplines

Earth Science

- Geology

Teaching Approach

- Learning-for-use

Teaching Methods

- Hands-on learning
- Research

Skills Summary

This activity targets the following skills:

- Critical Thinking Skills
 - Understanding

National Standards, Principles, and Practices

NATIONAL SCIENCE EDUCATION STANDARDS

- (K-4) Standard D-1:

Properties of earth materials

Preparation

What You'll Need

MATERIALS YOU PROVIDE

- Pencils
- Scissors

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

- Internet Access: Required
- Tech Setup: 1 computer per small group, Projector

PHYSICAL SPACE

- Classroom

GROUPING

- Small-group instruction

BACKGROUND & VOCABULARY

Background Information

Millions of years ago, the oceans were full of incredible sea creatures.

Prior Knowledge

Recommended Prior Activities

- None

Vocabulary

| Term | Part of Speech | Definition |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| marine reptile | <i>noun</i> | an animal that breathes air and usually has scales, and lives most of its life in or around the ocean. |

For Further Exploration

Websites

- [National Geographic: Sea Monsters—A Prehistoric Adventure](#)

FUNDER



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