



Deep Dive — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–2 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making

Objective: Students will explore the metaphor of depth — that going beneath the surface reveals wonders in oceans, friendships, and learning.

Essential Question: *"What amazing things are hiding just below the surface?"*

Materials: The personalized story, Blue cellophane or tissue paper, Paper and watercolors, Sea creature templates

Vocabulary: Ocean, Coral, Kelp, Bioluminescent, Seahorse, Whale, Treasure, Depth, Surface, Current

ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Show a picture of a calm ocean surface. Ask: "What do you think is under there?" List predictions. Then show an underwater photo. "The surface only tells part of the story."

DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Pause at each depth layer. Ask: "What new thing did we discover by going deeper?" Emphasize the metaphor: depth reveals wonder in everything, not just oceans.

GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Layers of the Ocean mural: each child adds a creature to the right depth. Discuss what lives at each layer and why.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Draw your personal "deep dive" — something that looks simple on the surface but has hidden wonders. Write: "When I looked deeper, I found _____."

CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Share discoveries. Ask: "What will you dive deeper into this week?"

ASSESSMENT

Observe engagement during mural activity. Review deep dive drawings. Exit ticket: "Name something that's more amazing below the surface."

DIFFERENTIATION

Support: Provide ocean creature cards to place on the mural. Use sentence frames for writing.

Extend: Research a real deep-sea creature. Present your "Discovery Report" to the class.

HOME CONNECTION

Send home a "What's Below the Surface?" drawing activity. Families draw something ordinary on top and what's hidden underneath.
