Objective

By the end of this lesson, Aria will have a better understanding of the ecosystem of Dauphin Island Beach, including its wildlife, the importance of coastal conservation, and how to enjoy the beach responsibly while having fun!

Materials and Prep

- Notebook and pen for taking notes and drawing
- Camera or smartphone for taking pictures
- Access to the internet for research (if needed)
- Beach gear (swimsuit, towel, sunscreen, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional, for bird watching)

Before the lesson, review basic beach safety guidelines and the importance of protecting marine environments. Make sure to check the weather and tide schedules for a safe visit!

Activities

- **Beach Scavenger Hunt:**

  Create a list of items commonly found on the beach, such as seashells, driftwood, and specific types of seaweed. Aria will explore the beach to find these items and document them with pictures or drawings.

- **Wildlife Observation:**

  Spend some time observing the local wildlife, such as birds, crabs, and fish. Use binoculars to spot birds in their natural habitat and take notes on their behaviors. Discuss which animals are unique to Dauphin Island.

- **Creative Writing:**

  After exploring, Aria can write a short story or poem inspired by her day at the beach. Encourage her to describe the sights, sounds, and feelings she experienced while there.

- **Beach Cleanup:**

  Engage in a mini beach cleanup to learn about the importance of keeping the environment clean. Aria can collect litter and discuss how pollution affects marine life.

Talking Points

- "Dauphin Island Beach is home to many unique plants and animals. Can you name a few that might live here?"
- "Why do you think it's important to keep our beaches clean? What happens to the animals if we don't?"
- "When observing wildlife, what are some signs that show animals are comfortable or stressed?"
- "How can we enjoy the beach while also protecting it? What are some responsible practices we can follow?"
- "What did you learn from the scavenger hunt? Were there any items you found that surprised you?"
- "How does the beach change with the tides? Why is it important to know the tide schedule

when visiting?"
- "What was your favorite part of the day at the beach? Why did it stand out to you?"
- "Can you think of ways we can help protect coastal ecosystems, even when we're not at the beach?"
- "What kind of stories or poems could you write about your experiences at the beach?"
- "How do you think the weather affects the beach environment? What should we consider before going?"
- "What is your favorite beach activity, and why do you enjoy it?"
- "How can visiting places like Dauphin Island Beach help us appreciate nature more?"