

Arturo's Ocean Explorer Adventure

Materials Needed

- Paper or 1-2 paper plates
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- A piece of yarn or string (about 2-3 feet long)
- Child-safe scissors (with adult help)
- A clear zip-top plastic bag (like a Ziploc bag)
- Blue paper or blue tissue paper (optional)

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, Arturo will be able to:

- Describe the simple life cycle of a sea turtle (egg, hatchling, adult).
- Share one interesting fact about a shark, a pufferfish, and a crab.
- Create a simple model of an ocean food chain.
- Explain that a food chain shows how energy moves from one living thing to another.

Lesson Activities

Part 1: The Hook - Dive In! (5 minutes)

Let's start our adventure by closing our eyes. Imagine we are shrinking down, down, down until we are small enough to ride on a sea turtle's back. *(Pause for imagination)*. Okay, open your eyes! What do you think we would see on our ocean journey? What animals live there? Today, we are going to be ocean explorers and learn about some of the most amazing creatures in the sea!

Part 2: The Never-Ending Story - Sea Turtle Life Cycle (10 minutes)

Activity: Life Cycle Wheel

1. Take a paper plate or a round piece of paper. Let's draw lines to divide it into four sections, like a pizza.
2. **Section 1: Eggs.** In the first section, let's draw a nest with little round eggs in it.
 - **Fact:** A mother sea turtle swims to the beach where she was born, digs a hole in the sand with her flippers, and lays her eggs.
3. **Section 2: Hatchling.** In the next section, let's draw a tiny baby turtle crawling out of an egg.
 - **Fact:** These baby turtles, called **hatchlings**, follow the moonlight to find their way to the ocean. It's a big race to the water!
4. **Section 3: Juvenile.** In the third section, let's draw a medium-sized turtle swimming in the water.
 - **Fact:** This is like a teenage turtle! It spends years swimming and growing, eating jellyfish and seaweed.
5. **Section 4: Adult.** In the last section, draw a big, grown-up sea turtle.
 - **Fact:** When she is a grown-up, she will swim back to that same beach to lay her own eggs, and the cycle starts all over again!

Turn the plate as you tell the story to show how the cycle repeats.

Part 3: Cool Critter Fact Files (15 minutes)

Activity: Draw and Discover

Let's take a few small pieces of paper to make our fact files. On the front, you draw the animal. On the back, we can talk about its special secret!

- **PUFFERFISH:** Draw a round, spiky fish.
 - **Cool Fact:** "When a pufferfish gets scared, it gulps up water and blows itself up like a balloon to look bigger and spikier. This warns predators, 'Don't eat me! I'm pointy and poisonous!'"
- **CRAB:** Draw a crab with big claws and lots of legs.
 - **Cool Fact:** "A crab's skeleton is on the outside of its body, like a suit of armor! To grow bigger, it has to wiggle out of its old shell and grow a new, larger one. They are also expert sideways walkers!"
- **SHARK:** Draw a sleek, powerful shark.
 - **Cool Fact:** "Sharks are amazing parents in three different ways! Some sharks lay eggs in a tough case called a 'mermaid's purse.' Some sharks grow babies in their belly and give birth to them live, just like people. And some sharks have eggs that hatch *inside* the mom, and *then* the babies are born live! How cool is that?"

Part 4: The Ocean Lunch Line - Food Chain Weaving (10 minutes)

In the ocean, everybody has to eat. A **food chain** shows us who eats who. Let's build one!

1. First, draw these five things on separate small pieces of paper: a **Sun**, some green **Seaweed**, a **Crab**, a **Sea Turtle**, and a **Shark**.
2. With an adult's help, cut them out and poke one hole in each cutout.
3. Lay them all out. The sun gives energy to everything. What does the sun help grow in the ocean? (*The seaweed!*) Great.
4. Now, look at our animals. Who do you think would eat the seaweed for lunch? (*The crab or the turtle... let's say the crab for our chain!*)
5. Okay, a crab is crawling along. Who might swoop in and eat the crab? (*The sea turtle!*)
6. And who is a big predator at the top of our chain who might eat a sea turtle? (*The shark!*)
7. Now, take your yarn. Let's thread it through the holes in order: Start with the **Sun**, then go to the **Seaweed**, then the **Crab**, then the **Sea Turtle**, and finally the **Shark**.

Look! You made a food chain! You can see how the energy from the sun flows all the way to the shark.

Part 5: Creative Application - My Ocean-in-a-Bag! (10 minutes)

Now you get to be the creator of your own ocean world.

1. Open your zip-top bag. This is your ocean. You can put the blue paper inside to make it look like water.
2. On a separate piece of paper, draw your favorite animals from our lesson today. Maybe a sea turtle, a shark, and a little crab.
3. Cut them out (with help) and put them inside your "ocean." You can move them around!
4. **Story Time:** Now, use your Ocean-in-a-Bag to tell me a story. What is happening in your ocean? Is the shark looking for food? Is the turtle going to lay eggs? Make your animals swim, talk, and live in their world!

Part 6: Wrap-up & Review (5 minutes)

You did an amazing job as an ocean explorer today, Arturo! Let's see what you remember:

- Can you point to the baby turtle on your life cycle wheel? What is it called? (*Hatchling*)

- What does a pufferfish do when it's scared? (*Puffs up!*)
- Using your yarn, can you show me what a sea turtle eats in our food chain? (*The crab*).

Great work! You can keep your Ocean-in-a-Bag and Life Cycle Wheel to remember our adventure.

Extension Ideas (Optional)

- **For an extra challenge:** Add more animals to your food chain, like a small fish that eats seaweed or a seal that eats the fish. Where would they go?
- **For more creativity:** Use your drawings to create a stop-motion video with a phone, moving the animals a tiny bit between each picture to make them look like they are swimming.