



Theme: Water (Grades K-2)

Pre-Visit Activity #2

Five Senses: Exploration of Water

Overview:

In this activity students will use their senses to discover the properties of water. They will touch, smell, listen, taste, and look at water through a variety of hands on activities.

Objectives:

- Students will use their senses to explore the different aspects of water.
- Students will practice listening skills.
- Students will learn about the properties of water.

Materials:

- One clear container half full with warm water
- One clear container half full with ice-cold water
- Large sheets of different colored construction paper
- Small paper cups
- Drinking water
- One marble or small rock
- Laser pointer or flashlight

Activities:

1. Gather the students around a table. On the table, show students one container half full with warm (not hot) water and another half full with ice water. Explain that they will be using their five senses to learn about water. Ask them if they can think of what their five senses are. Brainstorm ideas.
2. Start with the sense of sight. Ask the students to describe what the water looks like. What color is it? What happens when you place it against a colored background (construction paper)? Show an example using red and green paper. Have the students note how the container of water changes color based on the surroundings. What happens when you drop something into the water? Drop a marble or a small rock into the container. Have students observe how the water moves. What happens if you add light to the side of the water container? Have a small laser pointer or flashlight and

place it on the side of the container. Have the students observe how the water changes because of the light. What happens when you tap the side of the container lightly or hard? Have the students observe the movement of the water.

3. Move on to the sense of smell. Does the water have a smell? Have the student's take a sniff of the air above the water. Ask the students: "What do you smell?" Why does the ocean water smell differently than the water we drink? (There are animals, plants, and salt in the ocean. Our water is fresh water, and it is cleaned before we drink it.)
4. Move on to the sense of hearing. What noise does the water make when it is just sitting there? What about rain? A waterfall? Oceans with waves crashing? What happens when you drop something heavy into the tub, or something light?
5. Stimulate the students' sense of hearing by playing a few pre-recorded water sounds. (Water sounds can be found at: <http://www.dueeast.com/watersounds.html>) Have the students close their eyes and play different water sounds (rain, ocean, dripping water, etc.) and see if they can identify what it is (answers can be given orally or written). What kinds of noises does water make?
6. Move on to the sense of taste. Provide each student with a small cup of water (drinking water, not water from the container and have them describe how it tastes. Ask the students what they think the water from the ocean would taste like. Ask the students what they think the water from a swamp would taste like.
7. Finally, allow them to place their hands in the tubs of cold and warm water and ask them how the water feels. Do not tell them that the water is at different temperatures; allow them to observe this for themselves. Ask them if it feels any different when they gently glide their hands in the water.

Conclusion:

These questions can be used to guide class discussion.

1. What senses did the students explore today?
2. What did the students learn about water that they could observe with their eyes?
3. What sounds did students enjoy the most, and why?
4. When they tasted the water, was it different from the water that they drink at home?
5. Does water always smell the same? For example, if they visit Lake Mead, or swim in a swimming pool, is there a noticeable difference in smell? What temperature of water did they like more? What changes the temperature of the water outside? (Answer: amount of sun and the air temperature).

Suggested Reading:

1. ***Brother Eagle, Sister Sky: A Message from Chief Seattle*** illustrated by Susan Jeffers. A story about Native American beliefs and how each generation deserves to breathe fresh air, drink pure water and to enjoy all the beauty that the earth offers.
2. ***Common Ground: The Water, Earth, and Air We Share*** by Molly Garrett Bang. Explains how everyone in the world depends on each of us individually to protect resources and maintain respect for the environment.
3. ***I Am Water*** by Jean Marzollo. A first book about water in its different forms and uses.
4. ***Magic School Bus: At the Waterworks*** by Joanna Cole. Mrs. Frizzle, the science teacher, drives the magical school bus into a cloud where the children shrink to the size of water droplets and follow the course of the water through the city's waterworks system.
5. ***Magic School Bus: Se Salpica Toda*** by Joanna Cole. In Spanish, experience the earth's water cycle first hand as Mrs. Frizzle's class rises into the air, forms a rain cloud, and drizzles down to earth just like rain.
6. ***Magic School Bus: Wet All Over*** by Joanna Cole. Experience the earth's water cycle first hand as Mrs. Frizzle's class rises into the air, forms a rain cloud, a drizzles down to earth just like rain.
7. ***Splish, Splash, Splosh*** by Mick Manning and Brita Granström. Join the adventures of a young boy and his dog and ride the waves, float on rain-filled clouds, shoot down fast-flowing rivers and splash through sewers until you get where all water ends...and begins.
8. ***Water*** by Frank Asch. Aimed at very young children, this book artfully describes water in it many forms, its uses, and its role in our lives.
9. ***Water (My First Nature Book)*** by Andrienne Soutter-Perrot, Etienne Delessert (Illustrator). Explains water in its different forms and why every living thing needs water.
10. ***Water, Water Everywhere (Discovery Readers)*** by Melvin Berger, Gilda Berger, Bobbi Tull (Illustrator). A book about the water cycle, the distribution of water, and wastewater treatment.