

# Great Explorations

Ages 2-7



All About the Oceans – Here are some fun projects to do at home...

At the Museum, you can put on diving gear and explore the ocean's depth. For now, we're staying at home – but you can use this guide and your imagination to take a trip under the sea!

## Do

### Make an Ocean in a Bottle!

**Materials:** soda or water bottle (or jar with a tight-fitting lid), water, vegetable oil, blue food coloring; **Optional:** miniature plastic sea creatures, small shells or rocks

Fill a bottle 1/3 of the way with water, add food coloring, then shake it up. Finish filling up the bottle with vegetable oil, then shake it again.

What happens to the oil and water when you stop shaking the bottle? How does this experiment remind you of the ocean?

## Act

Pretend you are a deep-sea diver exploring the ocean floor. Ask a grown up to help you find your bathing suit. If you have swim goggles, put them on too!

How can you move as if you are swimming in water? What would you sound like if you could talk under water? What sea creatures will you meet? Can you try to act and sound like them too?

### Deep Blue Sea

I took a dive into the deep blue sea.  
So many creatures swam past me!  
A father seahorse, taking care of his young.  
A humpback whale, a lovely song he sung.  
A playful dolphin, frolicking about.  
A wise old sea turtle with his head poking out.  
Then a shark came by with his teeth so white.  
I swam so fast until he was out of sight!  
-Author Unknown

## Create

### A Totally Tubular Octopus

**Materials:** Cardboard toilet paper tube, scissors, paint/markers; **Optional:** googly eyes, cotton swab.

Paint or color the outside of your tube. Cut (with your grown-up's help) equally distant 1-inch vertical slits around the bottom end of the tube to make eight tentacles, then gently curl them out so the octopus can stand up on them. Use a marker or a cotton swab dipped in paint to make the suckers (dots). Draw on a pair of eyes.

## Explore More

Join our virtual 'Under the Sea' dance party! Grab a scarf or a blanket, and dance along!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SH2YTkMyD88>

YouTube – Exploring the Coral Reef: Learn about Oceans for Kids – Free School

While you watch, see if you can answer these questions: What is it called when many corals grow together? What kind of fish live in anemones? What are some things we can do to help keep our oceans clean?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2BKd5e15Jc>

For more At Home! activities and information about our exhibits visit us at  
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