

MYTHICAL SEA CREATURES: FLIPBOOKS, BINGO, AND MORE!

AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens/tweens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Participants draw their own versions of mythical sea creatures using fish, human, monster, or animal body parts. Their drawings then get sliced into thirds and compiled into a flipbook. You can also make this into a collaborative drawing game known as Exquisite Corpse, where children add to each other's drawings without seeing what was drawn before. While the flipbooks get compiled, children can play sea creature bingo, or make mermaid terrariums or painted rocks. The bingo cards would also work in a library scavenger hunt. Suggested runtime: 45–60 min.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Activity #1: Mix-Up Flip Books

Materials: Drawing paper; construction paper; pens, colored pencils, crayons, or markers; stapler; 3-hole punch and rings or spiral binding machine; photocopier (optional)

Instructions:

- In advance, prepare an 8 ½ x 11" piece of paper by dividing it into thirds with dotted lines (head, body, and tail sections). Across the whole page, draw a partial outline of a sea creature for children to finish. Ensure that you leave a margin on the left hand side for binding. Make enough copies for every participant.
- Children draw/finish their mythical creatures.
- When the drawings are complete, cut the pictures along the dotted lines.
- Staple, hole-punch, or spiral bind the different pictures together along the left side and bind them together into a book.
- Use as a flip book, changing which parts line up, to make new creatures.

TIP:

If running this program Exquisite Corpse-style, you can mark the points at which the head should join to the body, and the body should join the tail. Or you can leave the very bottom strip of the previous drawing exposed when it is passed to the next person. Either way allows for vastly different drawings to match up for continuity.

ADAPTATION:

For a passive option, provide stacks of paper on which teens draw their own versions of gods/goddess/sirens. After a number of submissions, slice each drawing into thirds and turn them into a laminated flipbook to display in the teen area of the library.

CRAFT | GAME/ACTIVITY | PASSIVE

- Optionally, make copies of each participant's drawing, then collate them so every participant gets to take home their own flipbook.
- Run an ocean-themed game or craft in the interim while a volunteer or other staff member does the photocopying and binding.

Activity #2: Sea Creatures Bingo

Materials: Sea creature bingo cards or printouts, bingo markers

Instructions:

- In advance, create sea creature bingo cards by writing different sea creatures in each bingo square. Use the template provided or design your own cards using Adobe Spark (see Resources). You could also laminate them for multiple uses.
- Choose obscure or well-known sea creatures, depending on your audience.
- If families participate, children as young as four could play along.

Activity #3: Mermaid or Sea Creature Terrariums

Materials: Clear containers such as glass pint jars, clear plastic cups, glass vases, or clear recycled soda bottles; pebbles; real moss and/or plants, or "plants" made from colored paper, clay, or recycled materials; soil if using real plants; plastic sea creatures/mermaids or clay



Image source: Shutterstock

Instructions:

- Have children build their terrariums by layering their materials in the clear containers in the following order:
 - Pebbles
 - Soil
 - Moss
 - Plants (real or crafted), as well as sea creatures/mermaids, etc.
- If plants are used, teach children how to water and look after their terrariums.

TIP:

Using real dirt in terrariums can get messy, so consider taking this craft outside.

Activity #4: Painted Mermaid Rocks

Materials: Flat rocks, acrylic paint, paintbrushes, Mod Podge (optional), metallic paint pens (optional)

Instructions:

- Before beginning, wash your rocks and allow them to dry.
- Invite children to mix blue or green colors and cover their rocks with a coat of color.
- Using a fine brush or a paint pen, add mermaid scales over top of the blue or green color.
- Alternatively, children can paint fish, sea creatures, waves, etc. on the rocks. See Resources for inspiration.
- Once the paint has dried, coat the rocks with a layer of Mod Podge (optional)



Image source: Joelle Wake of Whiting Public Library, Whiting, IN

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Volunteers to collate the drawings and/or help with individual activities.

RESOURCES

Web

Bingo card templates from Adobe: <https://adobe.ly/3urM44a>

List of legendary creatures from Wikipedia: <https://bit.ly/2R2o4ql>

“Exquisite Corpse” video from Art in Motion: <https://bit.ly/3i4J1vY>

Monster flip book tutorial from Make and Takes: <https://bit.ly/3uvYwQ9>

“Ocean Animals Mix and Match” (printable) from All Kids Network: <https://bit.ly/3wQIALp>

CRAFT | GAME/ACTIVITY | PASSIVE

“DIY Terrariums for Kids” from CBC Kids: <https://bit.ly/3oUtG2F>

Exquisite corpse explanation from MOMA: <https://mo.ma/3yGX15c>

Exquisite corpse from Wikipedia: <https://bit.ly/3yH2cCb>

Painting mermaid rocks tutorial from *Fin Fun*: <https://bit.ly/2SaPQSn>

Books

Non-fiction

The Loch Ness Monster (2020) by Jen Besel (children’s)

The Atlas of Monsters: Mythical Creatures from Around the World (2019) by Sandra Lawrence and Stuart Hill (children’s)

Children’s Book of Mythical Beasts and Magical Monsters (2018) by DK (children’s)

Fiction

Myth Match: A Fantastical Flipbook of Extraordinary Beasts (2018) by Good Wives and Warriors (children’s)

Putuquq and Kublu and the Qalupalik (2019) by Roselynn Christopher, Danny Christopher, and Astrid Ariyanto (children’s)

The Loch Ness Monster (Autobiographies You Thought You’d Never Read) (2015) by Catherine Chambers (children’s)

How to Catch a Mermaid (2018) by Adam Wallace and Andy Elkerton (children’s)

Emily Windsnap series by Liz Kessler and Natacha Ledwidge (children’s)

Mabel: A Mermaid Fable (2020) by Rowboat Watkins (children’s)

Printables

Blank Bingo Card

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