

Make a Mural!

A mural is an extremely large work of art, most often a painting, applied to the surface of a wall, ceiling, or floor. Have children visualize an ocean/pond/lake/river creature from a story or book and then personalize it and add to the mural through their own drawings and writings.

1. Ask children questions: Have you ever seen any ocean creatures in a zoo, aquarium, during a visit to an ocean? What kinds? Write them on a dry erase board or easel paper.
2. Read a book with a variety of ocean/pond/lake/river creatures in the story or tell a story. After reading the story, ask children more questions: Did the book mention any ocean/pond/lake/river creatures that we already listed? Were there any that were different?
3. Explain that we will be making a mural with ocean/pond/lake/river animals from our story.
4. Ask children for ideas about what to put on the mural. Children will be reminded to pay close attention to where the creatures they are drawing live (under a rock, in coral reef, on the edge of the water, etc) and what it looks like, (how many legs, fins, etc)
5. Put out a variety of papers, markers, crayons, colored chalk. Emphasize that this is a mural, not individual pictures- the children must work together in order to make the mural, which will hang in the library when it is done. Monitor the children carefully to be sure that they understand what they are doing.
6. When the children have finished, add their ocean/pond/lake/river creatures to the mural paper. Write the name of the book that you read to the children at the top of the mural and display it prominently in the library. (Older children or teens might be invited to paint a scene on the mural paper before the individual creatures are added to it.)

Sources:

Ocean Theme Mural <http://www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/ocean-theme-mural.html>

Printable pages, as well as clipart cut-outs of various ocean creatures can all be downloaded and printed from the following site free of charge. You will be required to register as a member - free. <http://www.learningpage.com>.



Much Ado About Summer Reading Program 2010

Ideas gathered or created by

KarenWendt: muchadoaboutstory@gmail.com