



Exploring the Ocean Environment

Ms. Steinmetz

Jan. 15-Apr. 3, 2008

Course Outline/Policies

Introduction

Dear Parents and Students,

I wish to welcome you to the after school enrichment class titled: "Exploring the Ocean Environment". I am excited to be teaching a topic I truly love and am confident that we will have an enjoyable few months of learning about the wonders of the marine ecosystem. Please read through this packet thoroughly as it contains important information about the course.

Since we will be spending several weeks together, I would like to take this opportunity to share a few things about myself, both professionally and personally. I was

born and raised in Santa Monica, CA. I have a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from the University of Southern California where I also played water polo. In addition to a BS degree I hold a secondary education credential in Biological Sciences with a CLAD emphasis. I spent the last 7 years teaching science at the middle school level in the Santa Monica-Malibu School District. I am currently taking a break from teaching in the classroom full time to pursue other interests in education (outdoor and intervention/enrichment programs). I have recently relocated to Mammoth and am working as

a substitute teacher and a ski instructor. I am also tutoring students in the community.

When I am not teaching I am either working on the beach as an ocean lifeguard for the L.A. County Fire Department or spending my time playing outdoors. I love to surf, free/SCUBA dive, and sea kayak. One can also find me climbing a rock or an icy waterfall or a mountain as well as find me exploring the backcountry. During the winters I spend a lot of my free time alpine skiing and snow boarding. When I am not physically active I am usually reading various books or writing poetry.

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Special points of interest:

- Check out the syllabus and mark class dates on your calendar (Ms. S will be working in Yosemite Jan. 17th-Jan. 26th. **No class Tuesday Jan. 22nd!**)
- Please bring this packet signed Jan. 29th. Packets will be returned for your future reference.
- Please let me know if you are allergic to seafood ASAP!

Preliminary Course Syllabus

Jan. 15th: *Marine Mammals : Entangled Sea Lions*

Jan. 22nd: No Class-Ms. S is working in Yosemite!

Jan. 29th: Marine Mammals: Staying Warm

Feb. 5th: Marine Mammals: Bradycardia

Feb. 12th: Marine Mammals:

Echolocation

Feb. 19th: *No Class-School Holiday!*

Feb. 26th: Moving Right Along Lab

Mar. 4th: Moving Right Along Lab/Prep for Squid Dissection

Mar. 11th: Squid Dissection

Mar. 18th: Crazy Plankton Activity

Mar. 25th: Santa Monica Bay Game

Apr. 1st: Santa Monica Bay Game

**** Subject to change due delivery of materials (i.e. squid)!**

Classroom Behavior Rules

Rules in this class are very simple:

1. **RESPECT:** Have respect for yourself as well as towards others. Show respect for the classroom (s) we will be using. The science department has been very kind in providing us with classrooms and equipment. If it does not belong to you and/or if you have not been instructed to use the materials don't touch it!
2. Come to class on time and be pre-

pared to learn.

3. Have a magnificent positive attitude. Learning is FUN. Why not enjoy it?
4. Follow all the basic rules of school as well as the lab safety rules.



Students learn the most and have fun in a positive learning environment!

One of my duties as an educator is to ensure the safety (both emotional and physical) of all students. Students learn the most and have fun in a positive learning environment. As such there will be consequences for breaking the rules. These will include verbal and/or written warnings for minor infractions as well as possible contact with parents. Serious infractions or continuous repeats of minor behavior problems may result in the student's removal from the course.

Lab Safety Rules

Throughout this course we will be doing a variety of science lab activities, which will possibly involve using lab instruments and chemicals. The following rules are in place to keep all students safe in the laboratory as well as keep equipment in excellent condition.

General Guidelines:

- Read/follow directions carefully.
- Never perform unauthorized experiments.
- When entering the room do not touch any equipment, chemicals, or other materials until told to do so by Ms. S.
- Never fool around. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks are dangerous and prohibited.
- Stay in your assigned lab area.
- No food or drinks in the lab.
- When using knives and other sharp instruments always carry with tips/points pointing down/away. Always cut away from your body. Never try to catch falling sharp instruments. Grasp sharp instruments

only by the handles.

Appropriate Dress:

- Tie back long hair.
- Wear closed toed shoes.
- Wear safety goggles if using chemicals or fire.
- Wear gloves when using chemicals that irritate or can be absorbed through skin.

Avoiding Contact with Chemicals:

- Never taste/sniff chemicals.
- Never carry dangerous chemicals or hot equipment near other people.

Avoiding Hazards:

- Keep things that can catch fire away from open flames.
- Report damaged electrical equipment to Ms. S immediately.

Clean Up:

- Ask teacher about proper disposal of chemicals/specimens.
- Wash hands thoroughly after experiments.

- Leave the lab area clean and neat (better than you found it). Clean, rinse, and wipe dry all work areas and equipment at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in good condition to the area designated by Ms. S.



"Never taste/sniff chemicals." You don't want to look like this guy!

In Case of an Accident:

- Report all accidents and spills to Ms. S right away!
- Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Use a brush and dustpan to clean up broken glass and put in a designated disposal container.
- If chemicals get on your skin/in eyes wash them with plenty of running water.

Student Accountability

Guess what? No grades! This is an after school enrichment class.

Although students are not being graded on the content learned I do expect them to come to class on time and be prepared to learn. This means that students will be required to complete the assignments given (no HW). Most assignments will include a lab ac-

tivity packet, which students will use to record observations and data. I will be checking students' work throughout the class session to make sure they are completing the assignment. These packets should be kept in a binder so that students can access them in future lessons.

I encourage parents to ask their child what they learned in class.

This is a good way to get students to review what they learned, which will inevitably help them in their academic classes at



People who ask questions usually become scientists!

Supplies Needed

- Students should have the following with them every class: 1" Binder (to keep work in), Writing Utensils (2 Blue/Black Pens, 2 Pencils), Lined Paper
- **Request for lab supplies - any supplies that the community can donate will be greatly appreciated!** We will need the following throughout the class (listed by lab activity):
 - All Labs
 - Rags
 - 4 - Sponges
 - Squid Dissection
 - Vegetable Oil
 - Small Paper Plates
 - Hand Sanitizer
 - Seafood Breaded Seasoning
 - 2 - Lemons
 - Crazy Plankton Lab
 - Empty Film Canisters
 - Vegetable Oil
 - Items to act as a weight (marbles, washers, nuts, bolts)
 - Nails
 - Toothpicks
 - Aluminum foil
 - Saran wrap
 - Straws
 - Corks
 - Any other "junk" that can be used to build a wacky plankton model
 - Masking Tape
 - Duct Tape
 - Santa Monica Bay Game
 - 3 Large Bags of Starburst Candy
 - Moving Right Along Lab
 - Salt
 - Large size Dixie cups
 - Red and blue food coloring
 - 2 - .75 Liter Plastic Water Bottles
 - Pushpins
 - Marbles
 - Black Tide Lab
 - Vegetable Oil
 - Bird Feathers



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Please help...we are in need of supplies for many of the lab activities!

* Please email me if you can donate supplies and what it is you can contribute so that I can coordinate with others.

** Thank-you in advance for your donations! Your contributions are what make public school programs a success.

Exploring the Ocean Environment

Mammoth Unified School District
 PTO Enrichment Program
 P.O. Box 2429
 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Phone: 310-678-5908

E-mail (preferred method of contact):
 tutoring@waterkid.net

I'm on the web!
<http://waterkid.net>

COOL MARINE SCIENCE FACTS

The blue whale is the largest animal on Earth - double the size of the largest dinosaur (up to 100 feet long and weighs nearly 150 tons)!

80% of all life on Earth is found beneath the ocean surface!

The swordfish and marlin are the fastest fish in the ocean - they can reach speeds of 121 kph (approx. 75 mph)!

The Atlantic Giant Squid's eye can be as large as 15.75 inches (40 centimeters) wide! Try measure your eye and compare!!!

The tentacles of the giant Artic Jellyfish can reach 120 feet (36.6 meters) in length!

The deepest part of the ocean is located at the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean, which is 35,813 feet (10,916 meters) deep! If you were diving at that depth it would feel like 18,000 pounds on your head!

Student Contract

As a student, I will take responsibility for my own behavior and for my achievement in this class. I will not blame others or make excuses if I fall below my expectations. I will try my best and in the process, learn new things.

Also, I will follow Ms. S's instructions, protect my body during experiments, and act responsibly. I understand that I must demonstrate appropriate behavior at all times to be allowed to participate. I am aware that if I do not abide by the above rules I not only risk putting myself in danger of getting hurt, but others too. I understand that if this happens I will be removed from the lab exercise and possibly suspended/expelled from

the class.

I have read through this packet and taken note of important information such as course dates and rules/policies.

Are you allergic to seafood?

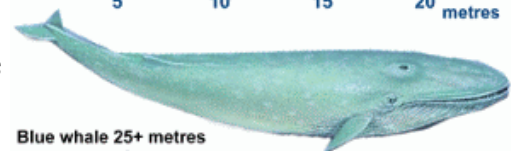
Yes No

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:



truck 7 metres



Blue whale 25+ metres



Giant squid 18 metres



Colossal squid ??

Can you imagine running into these squid? We will be dissecting a MUCH smaller squid and frying up some calamari so make sure you let me know if you are allergic to seafood!