



**Ocean
Week
Canada**



OCEAN CRAFT IDEAS

Use the following ideas to host hands-on activities at your library.

OCEAN ZONES IN A JAR

Concept: Explore the five ocean layers (Sunlight, Twilight, Midnight, Abyss, Trench) and learn how density causes different liquids to stack – a science + ocean habitat lesson.



Directions:

1. Carefully layer liquids in a clear jar from densest to lightest: corn syrup, dish soap, water, cooking oil, and rubbing alcohol to represent ocean zones.
2. Tint each liquid with food colouring to simulate the visual feel of each depth.
3. Label each layer with a printable or sticky notes.

Supplies:

- Large clear jar
- Funnel
- Corn syrup (or molasses), dish soap, water, cooking oil, rubbing alcohol
- Food colouring
- Sticky labels or pens

Discussion Discuss how different animals and plants survive in different zones and why protecting all layers matters.

👉 **More detailed steps:** www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/make-ocean-zones-in-a-jar

PAPER PLATE OCEAN ANIMALS

Concept: Use art to reinforce animal body parts, adaptations, and roles in the ocean while supporting fine motor skills and observation.



Directions:

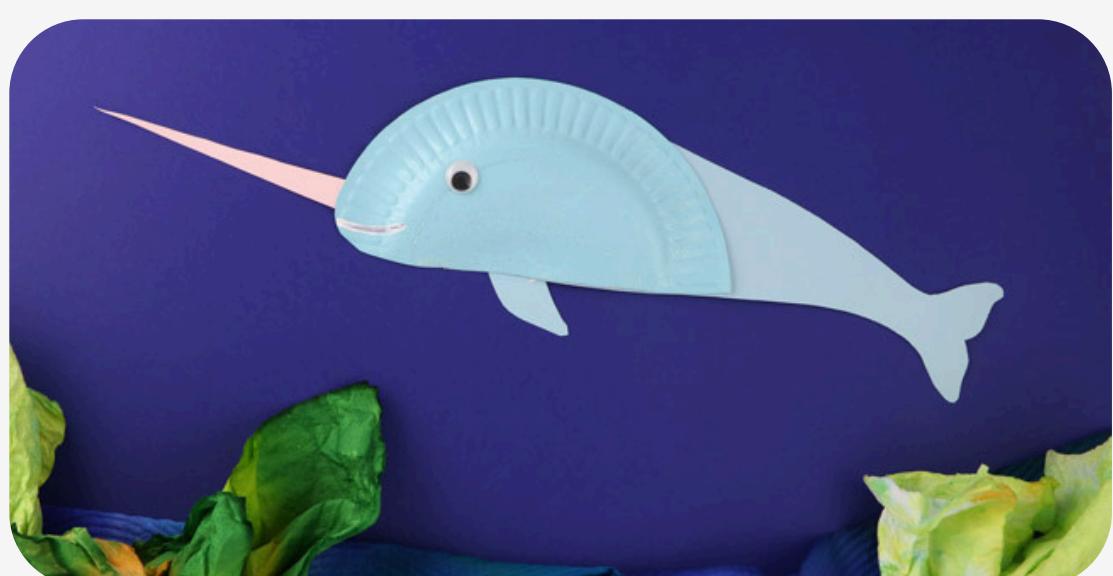
1. Paint or colour paper plates.
2. Cut shapes for mouths/fins and glue to assemble fish and whale shapes.
3. Add yarn, bubble wrap, or textured paper for creative touches.

Supplies:

- Paper plates
- Washable paints or crayons
- Scrap/ construction paper
- Scissors, glue stick
- Optional: yarn or bubble wrap for texture

Discussion: While crafting, talk about where each animal lives and how human behaviour (like pollution) affects them.

👉 **More detailed steps:** thecrafttrain.com/14-paper-plate-ocean-animals



TIPS FOR LOW-WASTE LIBRARY IMPLEMENTATION

- Use recycled paper / old magazines instead of new coloured paper.
- Reuse jars from donations or seasonal displays.
- Keep a communal supply box of reusable craft tools (scissors, markers) instead of disposable packs.

MOVING PAPER FISH

Concept: Hands-on folding shows fish shape and movement, and encourages talking about swimming, habitat, and adaptations.

Directions:

1. Fold one corner across to make a square and trim off the extra paper. Open the square flat. You should see one diagonal crease.
2. Fold two corners into the centre line (form a kite shape), then open it flat and fold the paper in half along the diagonal crease.
3. Cut thin slits along the folded edge, stopping at the crease and leaving about 1 inch uncut at each end.
4. Unfold the paper completely back into a flat square and fold the two long edges inward along the creases to form a cone shape.
5. Glue one side of the cone, fold the other side over it, and press inside the cone to make the fish body three-dimensional.
6. Create the face and fins: Round the tip to form the head, add a paper mouth inside, and glue on paper fins and a tail.
7. Add eyes and decorate. Wiggle your fish up and down to make it “swim” through the air!

Supplies:

- Paper plates
- Washable paints or crayons
- Scrap/ construction paper
- Scissors, glue stick

Discussion: While crafting, talk about where each animal lives and how human behaviour (like pollution) affects them.

👉 **More detailed steps:** craftsandprintables.com/how-to-make-a-paper-moving-fish



FISH CLOTHESPIN

Concept: Transform simple materials into ocean creatures and tie into food chains, species diversity, and habitat play.



Directions:

1. Print or draw fish shapes.
2. Glue fish to the top and bottom of a clothespin.
3. Add a toothpick or small stick for play actions.
4. Use the clothespin's pinch to "eat" or "catch" things during play.

Supplies:

- Printable fish templates (or draw your own)
- Clothespins
- Glue (non-toxic)
- Scissors
- Toothpicks or small sticks

Discussion: Discuss where different fish fit in the ocean food web; ask participants to name fish they know and where those fish live.

👉 **More detailed steps:** www.hellowonderful.co/post/fish-clothespin-craft

OPTIONAL ADD-ON PROMPTS & EXTENSIONS

Action Pieces:

- Have kids write a "Promise to the Ocean" on a paper wave cut-out after crafting.
- Add ocean fact cards by each craft to reinforce vocabulary like pelagic, gills, adaptation.
- Create a display board titled "What I Learned About The Ocean" where participants add facts inspired by crafts.