

# First Big Book of the Ocean

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Marine Life, Geography, Oceans

**Book Brief:** Did you know that sea otters sleep while floating in the ocean? Dive into this book to find out more fun and fascinating facts about the animals that

live in our oceans.

**Author:**  
Catherine D. Hughes



## TIME TO READ!



**Before reading, make predictions:** What animals do you think will be in this book? What is the name of the fish on the cover? Have you ever seen a fish like it before?

**While reading, make connections:** Have you ever been to an aquarium? If so, did you see any of these animals there? Have you ever been to the ocean

shore? What type of animals did you see there?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ What are some of the food sources for ocean animals?
- ◆ How many oceans are there?
- ◆ Which animal surprised you the most? Why?
- ◆ Were there any animals that weren't included that you think the author should have included? Explain your answer.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### SWEET AND SALTY

Ingredients: fresh fruit slices (e.g., watermelon, green apple, pineapple, peach), sea salt or table salt

We all know that sugar makes things taste sweeter, but did you know that a sprinkle of salt can have the same effect? Try adding a little bit of salt to slices of fresh fruit to bring out their natural sweetness. You and your child should taste the fruit both with salt and without salt. Can you tell the difference? Does the salt make the fruit taste sweeter? Ask other family members or friends to compare the salted and unsalted fruit and see if salty really can be sweeter.

### SEA SALT SCENERY

Materials: sea salt, paints, small cups, paint brushes, paper

Did you know that over 97% of all water on Earth is salt water? Create a little salty sea scene by mixing

some sea salt in with different paint colors and painting a picture as usual. What type of animals will your sea scene have? Think about which ocean the animals live in. Which ocean is nearest your home?

### HABITATS AT HOME

What animal habitats can you find near your home? Perhaps a spider has built its home where you can see a web, or a bird has built a nearby nest. Go on a habitat hunt and list the animals or animal homes you find. Be careful to only observe—and not disturb—any homes!

### VIRTUALLY THERE

Visit the National Aquarium website to take a virtual tour (<https://aqua.org/explore/virtual-tour>) or watch the marine life on one of the aquarium's live webcams (<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS IN THIS SERIES

*Little Kids First Big Book of Space* (2012)

*Little Kids First Big Book of Why* (2011)

*Little Kids First Big Book of Animals* (2010)



Reading Is  
Fundamental