

Molluscs Exploration

Target group: Everybody

Type: Exploratory/Awareness-raising

Duration: 3 hours

Country: Ireland

MARINE LIFE

- **METHOD:** *The activity is divided into a classroom session and a beach session. The first part contains: explaining and presentation about Molluscs: the ancient age of them; the hundreds of different types; the make-up and substrate of their shells; the areas of the coast where they are found; terminology of study of shells; modern uses of shells. The second part is organised on the Blue Flag beach. After giving risk assessment with the group, a beach clean is a good way to observe molluscs and collect items on the beach whilst taking away rubbish. Afterwards there can be a presentation for collected items for the group to collectively see and a sand-sculpting competition. These activities teach the students about their local Blue Flag beach. They learn about the programme and the creatures that live on their beach. It also reinforces the need to protect this local coastal area.*



- **MATERIAL:** *Variety of Mollusc shells; beach clean-up kit; prizes for competitions, cameras.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Environmental educators; local school/group; local authority.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *The activity might be promoted through local media; reports of day made for parents.*
- **TIPS:** *The classroom is a good focused place to learn about shells, the beach is a good follow up to find what the students have learned.*
- *Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!*

Seaweed Exploration

Target group: Everybody

Type: Exploratory/Awareness-raising

Duration: 3 hours

Country: Ireland

- **METHOD:** This activity is divided into a classroom session and a beach session. In the classroom the lecturer gives an explanation about seaweeds: an algae rather than weeds; the make-up of seaweeds with diagram; protection for marine life; human uses of seaweeds. Different types of seaweeds are shown to the students with examples: edible ones; soak dried bought ones showing expansion; bought health foods containing seaweeds. Afterwards the participants learn about the local Blue Flag beach, and the importance of the Blue Flag programme in protecting our local beaches. On the beach, a beach clean is a good way to observe seaweeds whilst taking away rubbish and helping to maintain and protect it. A sand-sculpting competition motivates the group to use washed-up seaweeds into an art-based game.



- **MATERIAL:** Variety of seaweeds bought and found; beach clean-up kit; prizes for competitions, cameras.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental educators; local school/group; local authority; health spas using the lasso therapy; farmers using seaweeds; restaurants with seaweed dishes.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be promoted through local media; reports of day made for parents.
- **TIPS:** The classroom is a good focused place to learn about seaweeds, the beach is a good follow up to find what the students have learned. Showing edible seaweeds in the classroom can be messy and wet and can cause reactions from the class – be prepared.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Home of Marine Mammals

Target group: Children

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: 2 hours

Country: Mexico

MARINE LIFE

- **METHOD:** *The activity has two parts. First, during the workshop the children learn what kind of marine mammals live on the beach and why it is important to protect them. They speak about marine conservation and also discuss why it is needed to keep the beach clean. How can each of us help to protect marine mammals? In second part, children are divided into groups and walk around the beach, wearing a tee-shirt that identifies them. They ask beach users if they know the different kinds of marine mammals showing them photos and drawings, and explain why it is important to protect them and keep the beach clean. Afterwards children give them paper bags to collect their trash.*



- **MATERIAL:** *Tee-shirts, paper cards, colour pencils, marine mammals photos, paper bags for trash, cameras.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Environmental educators, either voluntary or hired. Local schools, and youth clubs.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *The activity might be promoted by local media, tourist offices, and environmental education centres.*
- **TIPS:** *Registration is needed to create smaller groups based on age and number of children.*
- *Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!*

Minifish Boat

Target group: Children and adults

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: 1 day

Country: New Zealand

- **METHOD:** *This activity was part of the Seaweed with the Coast Care Day at Fitzroy and East End Beaches. Many activities and interactive events occurred during the day with various stalls and displays. The day included a minifish boat and displaying of big fishes on ice. Children and adults were given talks about different species of fish that live in the marine world and sustainable approaches to manage fishing resources.*



- **MATERIAL:** *Minifish boat, tanks with ice, different kinds of fish, environmental education materials, cameras.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Environmental educators, either voluntary or hired, regional conservation council.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *Invitation letter to schools, touristic offices, environmental education centres, local media.*
- **TIPS:** *This activity might take place also in marinas.*
- *Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!*

Rocky Shore Studies

Target group: School children

Type: Exploratory/Awareness-raising

Duration: 45 – 60 minutes

Country: New Zealand

MARINE LIFE

- **METHOD:** *Students are invited to join a field trip to Kawaroa rocky area. It is preceded by classroom lessons bringing the attention of the students to the need to respect the fragility of this area and protect it as young environmentalists also themselves. The children learn about plants and animals living in the rocky pools, conditions that they must adapt to at different rock pool areas and how to protect them. During the field trip the students study the area and in the meanwhile pick up the litter from there.*



- **MATERIAL:** *Outdoor shoes, hats, materials about local environment, bags and gloves to pick litter, cameras.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Environmental educators, either voluntary or hired, regional conservation council.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *Invitation letter to schools.*
- **TIPS:** *Don't forget to stress the safety.*
- *Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!*

Dark Secrets of Marine World

Target group: Everybody

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: Unlimited

Country: Poland

- **METHOD:** Transparent boxes made of plexiglass are installed on the beach during the season or special environmental education event. The bottom of one of them looks similar to the seabed – it is covered by sand, shells, pieces of wood, stones, feathers and seaweed. It is natural “waste” and there’s no need to be afraid of it. The quote says: “A treasure of ‘Gdansk’ beaches”. Another box contains the most common kinds of waste produced by humans that one can find on the beach or in the sea – clothes, plastic and glass bottles, cans, etc. There is also a description of materials they are made of and how long it takes for them to decompose. The quote “Think before you throw it away” should encourage the beach users to behave responsibly.



- **MATERIAL:** Plexiglass boxes installed 1 meter high, different kinds of waste, sand, information flyers.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local waste recycling company, municipality, environmental education centres.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Local media; posters and leaflets about the “exhibition” might be posted at tourist offices, environmental education centres, municipality website and information boards. .
- **TIPS:** It is very difficult to find these kinds of waste on the Blue Flag beaches. :)
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Shark Conservation

Target group: Children

Type: Exploratory/Awareness-raising

Duration: 1–4 hours, depending on age

Country: South Africa

MARINE LIFE

- **METHOD:** *The City of Cape Town is home to South Africa’s largest White Shark population. As a result, there is a need to manage this population of apex predators. This environmental education activity raises awareness about protected species and also about the “Shark Spotters Programme” of the municipality.*



- **MATERIAL:** *Shark spotting flags, posters, films, shark egg cases, camera.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Oceans conservation alliance, environmental education organisations.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *Local schools might be invited via email, posters or the local media.*
- **TIPS:** *Always keep in mind that sensationalism and scaring the audience is not the point of this activity!*
- *Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!*

Handcrafts Workshop for Disabled People

Target group: Disabled people

Type: Experiential / Awareness-raising

Duration: 1 day

Country: Ukraine

- **METHOD:** Adults and/or children with various disabilities are invited to learn basic techniques to produce souvenirs from local marine fauna exoskeletons, such as shells, both to be able to create individual design pieces and to gain environmental knowledge about marine creatures and their importance in conserving the marine environment.



- **MATERIAL:** Sea shells, ecological glue and paints, paper, frames, brushes, accessories (beads, hooks, etc.) and camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental and art educators, either voluntary or hired, disabled people organisations.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be promoted by tourist offices, environmental education centres, local media, and rehabilitation organisation for disabled people.
- **TIPS:** This activity could be organised on the beach or indoors. An exhibition of the products created could also be arranged.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!