

# Olly's Treasure Lesson Plans



**Make oysters.** Have students make their own oysters with this easy craft:

Materials needed: 1 coffee filter, white or tan; 2 wiggle eyes (any color); 1 Pom, (any color) size ½ inch or less; Scotch tape, Glue

Directions: Fold the coffee filter in half; then fold in half again. Tape down the side with Scotch tape. Glue wiggle eyes on one side, close to the edge. Glue a Pom on the inside for the pearl. You can use white for the pearl, but I find that kids love to pick out fun bright colors as well.

**Discussion:** In the story, Olly learns that his home on the oyster reef provides a clean surface to settle on, protection from predators, beauty from its pearls, and the friendship of other sea animals. Ask students what makes their home special. Is it more valuable than gold and silver? What makes it more valuable?

## Key facts about oyster reefs:

- Oysters filter and clean the water just by eating and breathing
- A single oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day!
- Oyster reefs provide a stable, clean surface for other oysters and sea animals to settle
- Oyster reefs provide shelter for sea animals to hide from predators
- Oyster reefs help to prevent erosion of beaches by reducing the energy of waves



## Make an oyster reef treasure box:

Materials needed: 1 Egg carton, 1 Chenille stick (any color), 2 Poms (any color), 5 Sets of wiggle eyes, plus 1 for the fish (any color), Brown and orange construction paper, Bottle cap (to trace), Blue and purple glitter (any color will do), Brown and black markers, Sponge brush, Scissors, Glue, Clear tape, Ruler

Directions: Trim the edges of the egg carton where it closes. Then cut the egg carton in half. Now you will have two halves. Save the second half.

Cut the lid off the second half and turn it over. Place it like a lid over the base of the first half of the carton, as seen in the photo. The bumps of the egg holders will be the oysters on the oyster reef. Tape the pieces together. Use the brown marker to draw wavy vertical lines across each

oyster. Then use the black marker to draw eyes. You can use wiggle eyes on half of the oysters to show some are awake and others are asleep.

At this point you can decorate the treasure box with glitter. Brush on clear glue with a sponge brush at the corners and different spots all over the box. The idea is to guild it rather than glitter the entire box. Then pour glitter onto the spots. You can place paper underneath to save the excess glitter (You may want to skip this step and use glitter glue).



Next, for the sea worm, fold the chenille stick in half, add wiggle eyes, and curl it around an oyster.

Then, for the crab and fish, cut circles out of the brown and orange construction paper, about 1 1/4 inch. I used a bottle cap as a template to trace around for each circle. Using the orange paper, cut out a triangle and glue to the back of the orange circle for the fish. Then cut three legs, about two inches long, out of the brown paper, crisscross them and glue or tape to the back of the brown circle for the crab. You can trim the front legs of the crab to form the pincers. Add eyes to both and tape or glue to the box. Lastly, add the Poms to represent the pearls on the reef.

**Use a demonstration** to show how oysters filter dirty water:

Materials needed: 3 spice bottles to represent algae (use oregano), detritus (use dried onion), sediment (use peppercorn); 1 gallon size Motts bottle filled with tap water; a large clear bowl; 1 small spoon; 4 coffee filters; 1 strainer that will fit over the bowl

Demonstration: Hold up the Motts bottle filled with clean water and show children how clean and clear it is. Tell them it will represent water in the bay or river. Ask them if they think sea animals would like living in the clean and clear water.

Next, hold up each spice bottle, take off the lid and add one spoonful to the Motts bottle, explaining each time that you are adding algae (tiny plants that live in the water), detritus (tiny bits of broken down plants and animal waste), and sediment (tiny bits of broken down rocks).



After each spoonful, hold the bottle up and show how dirty and mucky the water is getting. Ask children if they think sea animals will be able to breathe well in the dirty water. Ask them if sunlight will be able to reach the sea animals and underwater plants. Most living things need sunlight and oxygen to survive.

