A RABBIT HOLE HOMESCHOOL UNIT STUDY

Leo's Ocean & Sea Creatures Unit

4 weeks, 4 days a week, every subject taught through ocean & sea creatures. Built for a hands-on builder in K-2 (ages 5-7).

Sessions: **60-90 minutes total, in short blocks** Days: **16** Books: **4** Projects: **4** State: **Florida**

How this unit works

Interest-led does not mean unstructured. Every day has the same five blocks: Read, Write, Math, Science or History, and Make. The theme is the hook; the skills are grade-level. Each week has a project that Leo builds across the week and shares on the last day.

The big questions

- Why is most of the ocean still unexplored?
- How do animals survive in the deepest, darkest water?
- How does the ocean affect the weather where we live?

Skill targets for K-2 (ages 5-7)

READING

Listen to or read aloud 15-20 minutes a day. Retell the story in your own words. Point out 3 new words.

WRITING

Draw a picture and write 1-3 sentences. Focus on a capital letter, finger spaces, and ending punctuation.

MATH

Counting to 100, addition and subtraction within 20, comparing sizes, simple patterns and shapes.

SCIENCE

Observe, ask questions, sort, compare, and record what you see with drawings.

HISTORY / SOCIAL STUDIES

Maps, timelines with 'long ago / now', people who help, how people lived.

Book list

Reserve these at the library this week. Any two are enough to run the unit; the rest are extras.

- *The Snail and the Whale*, Julia Donaldson
- *The Big Book of the Blue*, Yuval Zommer

- *Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist*, Jess Keating
- *Dolphins at Daybreak (Magic Tree House #9)*, Mary Pope Osborne

Vocabulary

habitat: the natural home of a plant or animal

current: a steady flow of water moving in one direction

tide: the daily rise and fall of sea level caused mostly by the Moon

predator: an animal that hunts other animals

camouflage: coloring that helps an animal hide

bioluminescence: light made by living things

coral reef: an underwater structure built by tiny animals

marine biologist: a scientist who studies ocean life

salinity: how salty water is

ecosystem: a community of living things and their environment

Materials and prep

- Library books (above), a notebook or binder for Leo, pencils, markers, paper.
- **Write and perform a deep-sea news report:** Report live from the Mariana Trench. Include 5 facts and an interview with a creature.
- **Water-bottle submarine:** Build a diving submarine from a plastic bottle, a straw and coins. Test how to make it sink and rise.
- **Ocean sounds & poetry:** Listen to real whale-song recordings and write a poem or song about life in the dark zone.
- **Build a coral reef diorama:** Shoebox, clay, pipe cleaners and paper. Label at least 6 species and their roles.
- Science investigations use kitchen and household items; read each day's Science block one day ahead.
- Field trip ideas: An aquarium (or a pet store's fish section if no aquarium is nearby); Any lake, river or pond: compare it with what you know about the ocean; A seafood counter or fish market: identify species and where they were caught.

Week 1: Dive in

Project this week: **Write and perform a deep-sea news report**

Day 1

WEEK 1

READ	*The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: The ocean covers about 71% of Earth's surface and holds about 97% of its water.
WRITE	If I were a fish for a day I would...
MATH	A sea star has 5 arms. How many arms do 3 sea stars have? Draw them and count.
SCIENCE	**Salt water vs. fresh water.** Float an egg in tap water, then add salt a spoon at a time until it floats. Record how much salt it took. Why do things float more easily in the ocean?
MAKE	Start this week's project: **Write and perform a deep-sea news report.** Report live from the Mariana Trench. Include 5 facts and an interview with a creature. Plan materials today.
RABBIT HOLE	What is one ocean animal you think is misunderstood, and why?

Day 2

WEEK 1

READ	*The Big Book of the Blue* by Yuval Zommer (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: The deepest known point, the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, is about 11,000 meters down.
WRITE	Write 3 things a whale needs to survive.
MATH	An octopus has 8 arms. If it hides 3 arms, how many can you see?
HISTORY	Explore the timeline of ocean exploration: Polynesian navigators, Magellan, the Challenger expedition, Cousteau, the Trieste dive, modern ROVs.
MAKE	Work on **Write and perform a deep-sea news report** for 30-45 minutes.
RABBIT HOLE	If you could design a submarine, what one feature would matter most?

Day 3

WEEK 1

READ	*Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist* by Jess Keating (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: Sunlight only reaches about 200 meters below the surface. Below that it is dark all the time.
WRITE	Draw the ocean floor and label it. Write one sentence about what lives there.
MATH	Order these from smallest to biggest: seahorse, dolphin, blue whale, clownfish.
SCIENCE	**Ocean layers in a jar.** Layer honey, dish soap, water (dyed blue) and oil in a clear jar to model density layers. Label the sunlight, twilight and midnight zones.
MAKE	Work on **Write and perform a deep-sea news report** for 30-45 minutes.
RABBIT HOLE	Should humans be allowed to mine the deep sea floor?

Day 4

WEEK 1

READ	*Dolphins at Daybreak (Magic Tree House #9)* by Mary Pope Osborne (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: Blue whales are the largest animals ever known to have lived, up to about 30 meters long.
WRITE	Write a thank-you note to a sea turtle.
MATH	Make a pattern with shells or drawings: fish, fish, crab, fish, fish, crab. Continue it 3 times.
HISTORY	Find your nearest ocean on a map. Trace a shipping route from that coast to another continent and estimate the distance.
MAKE	Finish and share **Write and perform a deep-sea news report**. Take a photo for the portfolio. Optional field trip this weekend: An aquarium (or a pet store's fish section if no aquarium is nearby).
RABBIT HOLE	Why do you think we know more about the Moon's surface than the ocean floor?

Week 2: Investigate

Project this week: **Water-bottle submarine**

Day 5

WEEK 2

READ	*The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: Sea stars can regrow lost arms. Some can regrow a whole body from one arm.
WRITE	If I were a fish for a day I would...
MATH	Skip-count by 2s, 5s and 10s using the theme. Make a counting strip you can hang on the wall.
SCIENCE	**Make a current.** Fill a clear dish with room-temperature water. Add ice cubes dyed blue at one end and warm red water at the other. Watch the currents form and draw what happens.
MAKE	Start this week's project: **Water-bottle submarine.** Build a diving submarine from a plastic bottle, a straw and coins. Test how to make it sink and rise. Plan materials today.
RABBIT HOLE	What is one ocean animal you think is misunderstood, and why?

Day 6

WEEK 2

READ	*The Big Book of the Blue* by Yuval Zommer (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: Coral reefs are built by tiny animals called polyps and support about a quarter of all ocean species.
WRITE	Write 3 things a whale needs to survive.
MATH	Sort a pile of theme objects or picture cards by size, color and shape. Say how you sorted.
HISTORY	Learn how the Moon causes tides and why sailors have always needed to understand them.
MAKE	Work on **Water-bottle submarine** for 30-45 minutes.
RABBIT HOLE	If you could design a submarine, what one feature would matter most?

Day 7

WEEK 2

READ	*Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist* by Jess Keating (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a huge area where floating plastic collects because of ocean currents.
WRITE	Draw the ocean floor and label it. Write one sentence about what lives there.
MATH	Play 'How many more?': set out two groups of theme counters and find the difference.
SCIENCE	**Blubber glove.** Put one hand in a bag of shortening and one bare hand into ice water. Time how long each is comfortable. Explain how whales stay warm.
MAKE	Work on **Water-bottle submarine** for 30-45 minutes.
RABBIT HOLE	Should humans be allowed to mine the deep sea floor?

Day 8

WEEK 2

READ	*Dolphins at Daybreak (Magic Tree House #9)* by Mary Pope Osborne (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: Sharks have existed for more than 400 million years, longer than trees.
WRITE	Write a thank-you note to a sea turtle.
MATH	Measure 3 things with a non-standard unit (blocks, paper clips) and record the results in a chart.
HISTORY	Explore the timeline of ocean exploration: Polynesian navigators, Magellan, the Challenger expedition, Cousteau, the Trieste dive, modern ROVs.
MAKE	Finish and share **Water-bottle submarine**. Take a photo for the portfolio. Optional field trip this weekend: Any lake, river or pond: compare it with what you know about the ocean.
RABBIT HOLE	Why do you think we know more about the Moon's surface than the ocean floor?

Week 3: Create

Project this week: **Ocean sounds & poetry**

Day 9

WEEK 3

READ	*The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: The ocean covers about 71% of Earth's surface and holds about 97% of its water.
WRITE	If I were a fish for a day I would...
MATH	Make an addition story: 'There were 6 __ and 4 more came.' Write the number sentence.
SCIENCE	**Plastic survey.** Count every piece of plastic you throw away in one day. Estimate a month. Research one way plastic reaches the ocean and one way to reduce it.
MAKE	Start this week's project: **Ocean sounds & poetry.** Listen to real whale-song recordings and write a poem or song about life in the dark zone. Plan materials today.
RABBIT HOLE	What is one ocean animal you think is misunderstood, and why?

Day 10

WEEK 3

READ	*The Big Book of the Blue* by Yuval Zommer (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: The deepest known point, the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, is about 11,000 meters down.
WRITE	Write 3 things a whale needs to survive.
MATH	Build the theme with shapes: name every shape you used and count the sides.
HISTORY	Find your nearest ocean on a map. Trace a shipping route from that coast to another continent and estimate the distance.
MAKE	Work on **Ocean sounds & poetry** for 30-45 minutes.
RABBIT HOLE	If you could design a submarine, what one feature would matter most?

Day 11

WEEK 3

READ	*Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist* by Jess Keating (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: Sunlight only reaches about 200 meters below the surface. Below that it is dark all the time.
WRITE	Draw the ocean floor and label it. Write one sentence about what lives there.
MATH	A sea star has 5 arms. How many arms do 3 sea stars have? Draw them and count.
SCIENCE	**Tide chart reading.** Find a real tide chart online for any coastal city. Graph high and low tides for a week. What pattern do you see?
MAKE	Work on **Ocean sounds & poetry** for 30-45 minutes.
RABBIT HOLE	Should humans be allowed to mine the deep sea floor?

Day 12

WEEK 3

READ	*Dolphins at Daybreak (Magic Tree House #9)* by Mary Pope Osborne (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: Blue whales are the largest animals ever known to have lived, up to about 30 meters long.
WRITE	Write a thank-you note to a sea turtle.
MATH	An octopus has 8 arms. If it hides 3 arms, how many can you see?
HISTORY	Learn how the Moon causes tides and why sailors have always needed to understand them.
MAKE	Finish and share **Ocean sounds & poetry**. Take a photo for the portfolio. Optional field trip this weekend: A seafood counter or fish market: identify species and where they were caught.
RABBIT HOLE	Why do you think we know more about the Moon's surface than the ocean floor?

Week 4: Show what you know

Project this week: **Build a coral reef diorama**

Day 13

WEEK 4

READ	*The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: Sea stars can regrow lost arms. Some can regrow a whole body from one arm.
WRITE	If I were a fish for a day I would...
MATH	Order these from smallest to biggest: seahorse, dolphin, blue whale, clownfish.
SCIENCE	**Salt water vs. fresh water.** Float an egg in tap water, then add salt a spoon at a time until it floats. Record how much salt it took. Why do things float more easily in the ocean?
MAKE	Start this week's project: **Build a coral reef diorama.** Shoebox, clay, pipe cleaners and paper. Label at least 6 species and their roles. Plan materials today.
RABBIT HOLE	What is one ocean animal you think is misunderstood, and why?

Day 14

WEEK 4

READ	*The Big Book of the Blue* by Yuval Zommer (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: Coral reefs are built by tiny animals called polyps and support about a quarter of all ocean species.
WRITE	Write 3 things a whale needs to survive.
MATH	Make a pattern with shells or drawings: fish, fish, crab, fish, fish, crab. Continue it 3 times.
HISTORY	Explore the timeline of ocean exploration: Polynesian navigators, Magellan, the Challenger expedition, Cousteau, the Trieste dive, modern ROVs.
MAKE	Work on **Build a coral reef diorama** for 30-45 minutes.
RABBIT HOLE	If you could design a submarine, what one feature would matter most?

Day 15

WEEK 4

READ	*Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist* by Jess Keating (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a huge area where floating plastic collects because of ocean currents.
WRITE	Draw the ocean floor and label it. Write one sentence about what lives there.
MATH	Skip-count by 2s, 5s and 10s using the theme. Make a counting strip you can hang on the wall.
SCIENCE	**Ocean layers in a jar.** Layer honey, dish soap, water (dyed blue) and oil in a clear jar to model density layers. Label the sunlight, twilight and midnight zones.
MAKE	Work on **Build a coral reef diorama** for 30-45 minutes.
RABBIT HOLE	Should humans be allowed to mine the deep sea floor?

Day 16 (showcase day)

WEEK 4

READ	*Dolphins at Daybreak (Magic Tree House #9)* by Mary Pope Osborne (read aloud, 15-20 min). Fact of the day: Sharks have existed for more than 400 million years, longer than trees.
WRITE	Write a thank-you note to a sea turtle.
MATH	Sort a pile of theme objects or picture cards by size, color and shape. Say how you sorted.
HISTORY	Find your nearest ocean on a map. Trace a shipping route from that coast to another continent and estimate the distance.
SHOW	Unit showcase. Pick one: Retell one thing you learned to a grown-up using 3 new vocabulary words. **or** Draw a 'what I learned' poster with a title and labels. **or** Sort 10 picture cards about the theme and explain your rule. **or** Count and write the numbers for a theme counting page. Then finish **Build a coral reef diorama** and present it.
RABBIT HOLE	Why do you think we know more about the Moon's surface than the ocean floor?

Careers in ocean & sea creatures

Look up one of these together: marine biologist, oceanographer, submarine pilot, aquarium keeper, underwater photographer. What would Leo need to learn to do it?

Florida homeschool snapshot

LOW REGULATION Light paperwork.

NOTICE / FILING
Notice to the district within 30 days of starting

TESTING / ASSESSMENT
Annual evaluation (several methods allowed)

RECORDS TO KEEP
Portfolio of records and materials, kept 2 years

This snapshot is a summary of publicly available state guidance, not legal advice, and rules change. Confirm current requirements with your state department of education or a state homeschool association before relying on it. The record log below is designed to satisfy most portfolio and attendance expectations either way.

Record log

One row per day. Check the subjects covered, note hours, and keep this page with the printed unit: that is a portfolio entry.

DAY	DATE	READING	WRITING	MATH	SCIENCE	HISTORY	ART / PROJECT	HOURS	NOTES
1		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
2		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
3		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
4		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
5		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
6		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
7		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
8		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
9		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
10		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
11		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
12		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
13		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
14		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
15		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
16		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

End-of-unit checklist

- ☐ Showcase completed and photographed
- ☐ 4 project(s) in the portfolio
- ☐ Writing samples saved (first and last day)

- ☐ Math pages saved
- ☐ Book list with dates finished
