

Seashore Surprises

(GPN #88/PBS #903)

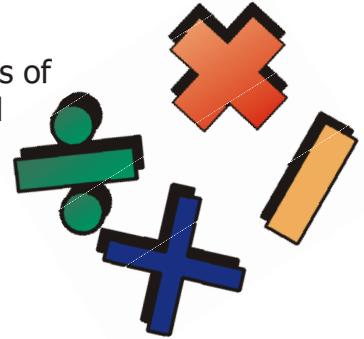
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Program Description: LeVar goes beachcombing along the beaches of Florida and meets two naturalists who introduce him to the plant and animal life of the seashore.



Math Concepts:

- sorting and classification
- counting
- weight
- estimation
- measurement
- symmetry

• **Classification.** After viewing the program, list animals that live along the seashore. Have the book, *Seashore Surprises*, available for reference. Sort the animals into different categories, such as “shell” and “no shell” or by where they live, e.g., water, sand, rocks.

• **Estimation.** Use a child’s small plastic sand bucket for estimation and measurement activities. Using the same measurement tool (e.g., a scoop, a cup, etc.), have students pursue such questions as how many scoops of sand, shells, or water will the bucket hold? Also, have them predict which of the three bucketfuls will be heavier and then weigh to check predictions.

• **Classification & patterning.** Working with a collection of different kinds of shells, have students classify shells according to type, color, size, etc. (They will think of other attributes by which to sort them.) Students might also arrange the shells in patterns. Encourage them to explain their patterns. If some of the shells are bivalves, discuss the concept of one-half and note the symmetry.

Do-At-Home Activity

• **Making a castle.** If sand is not available (at a beach, in a backyard sandbox, or at a park), mix soil and a small amount of water (enough to make the soil stick together without being muddy) and press into containers of different sizes and shapes (e.g., margarine tubs, cups and mugs, milk cartons, etc.). Empty the containers, keeping the shapes intact, and use the shapes to construct a castle. Make a sketch or take a photograph for the child to bring to school and share.

The following "recipe" for a sand castle is appropriate for classroom or home:

6 cups sand
1 cup wheat paste
water

paper cups, tin cans, plastic food containers, clay flower pots, drinking straws, flags, other decorations

Directions: Mix wheat paste and sand. Add water until sand has a claylike consistency. It should be sticky, and it should pack firmly into shapes. More sand and water may be added as needed. The wetter the sand, the longer it will take to dry. Use any large container as a base for the castle. Pack sand firmly around the base and add desired shapes (e.g., turrets from paper cups) from the small containers. Use sticks or plastic utensils to form windows, doors, steps, and other designs.