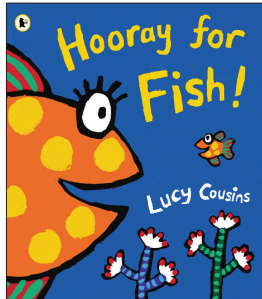




Individual title activities



Hooray for Fish

Author: Lucy Cousins
ISBN: 9781406301564 (paperback)
Other editions available: 9781406314427 (Board Book)
9781406324006 (Paperback + DVD)

Available from all good bookshops, your school and library supplier, and at www.walker.co.uk

This book is an exuberant riot of colour, language and rhyme that will seize children's imaginations and quickly sweep them along with it. The illustrations throb with movement and children will find it impossible not to jig and jiggle along as they listen to it; this is the perfect book for beginning to draw children's attention to the detail of the print. Teachers will want children to explore its rhythms and rhyme through a rich experience of creative approaches, including painting, music, dance and imaginative role-play. They will want to develop children's knowledge and understanding of the world through making the most of opportunities to look and find out as much as they can about what they are really like.

See also: Animated DVD with specially composed music, narrated by Emilia Fox

Teaching Sequence: 3–4 weeks

Learning aims:

- To listen with enjoyment and respond**, making up own stories, songs, rhymes and poems
- To find out about** some features of living things that they observe
- To read** by joining in the repeated text, responding to the patterns and rhythms and matching with the print
- To think** about the characteristics of the animals in the story, and to explore these through painting and modelling, role-play and storytelling
- To explore** the rhyme through talk, role-play and storytelling
- To create** the setting of the rhyme through experimenting with a variety of materials in various ways
- To write** in a variety of ways and for a range of purposes

Resources:

- a variety of paint, papers and collage material including paper bags
- small home-made books for independent writing
- clipboards
- information books about sea and river creatures
- collection of songs and rhymes about fish

FS curriculum: this book offers opportunity for work in all six areas of learning

Introducing the book

Draw children's attention to the author of this book.

What else do they know that she has written?

Read the title together making links where possible to the letters and sounds in the children's names.

Read the rhyme aloud, inviting children to join in with the rhymes and repetition.



Make an underwater world in the classroom

What colour is the sea?

Give children free rein to experiment with paint and water, exploring shades of colour and working on large sheets of paper. Add collage for light and texture, and cover it with net.

Make paperbag fish, by stuffing them with newspaper, painting them and coating them with thin PVC glue and water before hanging them.

What other creatures live in the sea?

Cut these out of magazines and add them into the display.

Alternatively, children can paint fish, choosing the pattern, cut them out and add them to a wall display.

What is this watery world like?

Make a list of what the children say and pin these words and phrases around the edges of the picture.

Watch and draw real fish in a school aquarium – independent and shared writing

Leave out clipboards and little books close by, and encourage children to use them as a way to collect their observations, questions and ideas.

Scribe their questions onto speech bubbles and pin them up, either around the aquarium or as part of the book display.

Use the children's observations as a starting point for writing a Class Big Information Book as shared writing, with you acting as scribe. This will provide a focal point for children talking about what they've seen and generate more questions and ideas for further exploration.

You might write one page of this each day, responding to children's ideas.

Finding out more about sea-water creatures

Put together a collection of information and storybooks about sea and water creatures for children to browse and talk about. This will be a useful collection to draw on both in reading aloud sessions and for children to take home. Encourage children to bring in materials from home to add to it. Make a regular time for children to talk to the class about something that they have discovered for themselves or about something that they would like to draw other children's attention to. Provide a variety of resources for children to use to draw or write about anything of interest they find out, including small home-made books. Some children are bound to want to find out about sharks.

Visit out

Go and visit a fishmongers to see what a variety of fish look like.

If possible, arrange to interview the fishmonger about their job.

Use the photographs from the trip to make an information book of what the children found out, displaying them on the whiteboard and annotating them with children's ideas and comments.

Fishmongers role-play

With the children's help, make a fishmongers in either the indoor or outdoor classroom using child-made card fishes along with laminated illustrations/photographs. Discuss with the children what sort of written texts they will need to help the play along.



Go on a trip to visit an aquarium

Chat with children about what fish are like and make a word bank (collect the words together into a large outline or write each word onto an individual scale).

Alternatively, hang the words alongside the paperbag fish.

Create an "Under the Sea" role-play area

Make space for children to play "Under the Sea". They might want to build a safe space to represent land where they cannot be caught by animals, such as a shark, using blocks or something similar.

Fish dance

As a class, explore how fish move – thinking about different sorts of fish or water creatures. How would a shoal of fish move? What about a crab? What about a shark?

Listen to the music for "Aquarium" from *The Carnival of the Animals* and make up a group dance to accompany it.

What sort of fish did they choose to be? How did they move?

Invite children to paint their ideas.

Write a class poem together drawing on the language the children have used.

Song and rhyme

Make a collection of songs, and rhyme and poetry books. Rewrite the class's favourites as A3-size song posters and have the children illustrate them. Use these as shared reading material.

Write your own song

As shared writing, write a song (using the shape and tune of "Five Little Ducks" as a guide....):

Five little fishes went swimming one day, along the stream and far away

Along came a _____ with its mouth open wide

And only four little fishes came back.

Four little fish went swimming one day, along the stream and far away

Along came a _____ with its _____

And only three little fishes came back...

Water play

Place a collection of buckets in the water tray with a variety of sea/water creatures for children to use to make up their own stories and games.