



Story: The Rainbow Fish

The Rainbow Fish tells the story of the most beautiful fish in the sea, whose scales shimmer in all the colors of the rainbow. He is admired by the entire underwater world, and the other fish dream of owning one of his magnificent shiny scales. Resentment and isolation ensue when he is unwilling to give any of them away, and he becomes the loneliest fish in the ocean. Following the advice of a clever octopus, he gives each fish one of his scales. The more he shares, the happier he becomes. The idea of depicting the exceptional beauty of the Rainbow Fish with shimmering silver foil came from the author himself. The result was the first picture book of its kind to appear on the market. To date, more than 30 million copies of the various Rainbow Fish volume have been sold worldwide in more than 50 languages. Now celebrating its twenty-fifth year of publications, The Rainbow Fish is undoubtedly one of the classic titles of children’s literature.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the Rainbow Fish so proud of his scales? What is something you are proud of about yourself?
2. The Rainbow Fish did not want to share his scales with the little fish at first. Why not?
3. How did the other fish feel when the Rainbow Fish wouldn’t share his scales?
4. Why did the Rainbow fish feel lonely after he didn’t share with the blue fish/ Can you remember a time you helped someone to not feel lonely?
5. The Rainbow Fish asks the starfish and the octopus for help to understand what to do next. When was a time you asked someone for help? Did you feel better afterwards?
6. Why was the Rainbow Fish happy at the end of the story? How does sharing lead to friendship?
7. What do you share with your Friends?



THEATER ETIQUETTE

Audience members play a special and important role in the performance. The performers are very aware of the audience while they perform, and each performance calls for different audience responses. Lively bands, musicians and dancers may desire audience members to clap and move to the beat. Other performers require silent focus on the stage and will want an audience to applaud only when they have completed a portion of their performance. As you enjoy the show, think about being a part of the performance.

- What are the differences between attending a live performance and going to a movie or watching television?
- What are some different types of live performances? Name a few as a class.
- What kind of responses might an audience give in each circumstance?
- What are the different cues that a performer will give you so that you know how to respond? For example, might they bow or pause for applause?

Also, remember that a theater is designed to magnify sound and even the smallest whispers or paper rustling can be heard throughout the auditorium. You are part of a community of audience members and you all work together to create your theater experience.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever traveled to a new place? Did you need to find courage like Rainbow Fish to go somewhere different?
2. What kinds of fish did Rainbow Fish meet in the deep sea?

Craft Ideas

Make a Class Rainbow Fish

Materials Needed:

- Butcher paper
- Scissors
- Construction paper, card stock, or paper plates
- Decorating supplies (glitter, stickers, foil, markers, etc.)
- Tape

Directions:

1. Ask the children if they remember what Rainbow Fish shared with the other fish in the ocean (his beautiful scales). Tell them that they are going to work together and make their own Rainbow Fish with beautiful, glittery scales.
2. Make a large fish shape on butcher paper.
3. Using half circles made with construction paper, or paper plates cut in fourths, have the children work together to make shimmering, glittery fish scales just like Rainbow Fish had! They can decorate their scales with glitter, pictures, foil, stickers, marker, etc.
4. Limit the number of materials to encourage children to share and work together. As they are decorating their scales, point out how they are sharing and working together like friends do.
5. After they have finished decorating the scales, help children attach each scale to the large fish shape. Be sure to attach only a small corner of the scale to the Rainbow Fish shape.
6. The next time you read the story and get to the part where Rainbow Fish gives away his scales, you can have children take a scale off of the big Rainbow Fish and put it on a smaller fish made out of construction paper and taped around the large Rainbow Fish shape. (The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning)



Craft Ideas

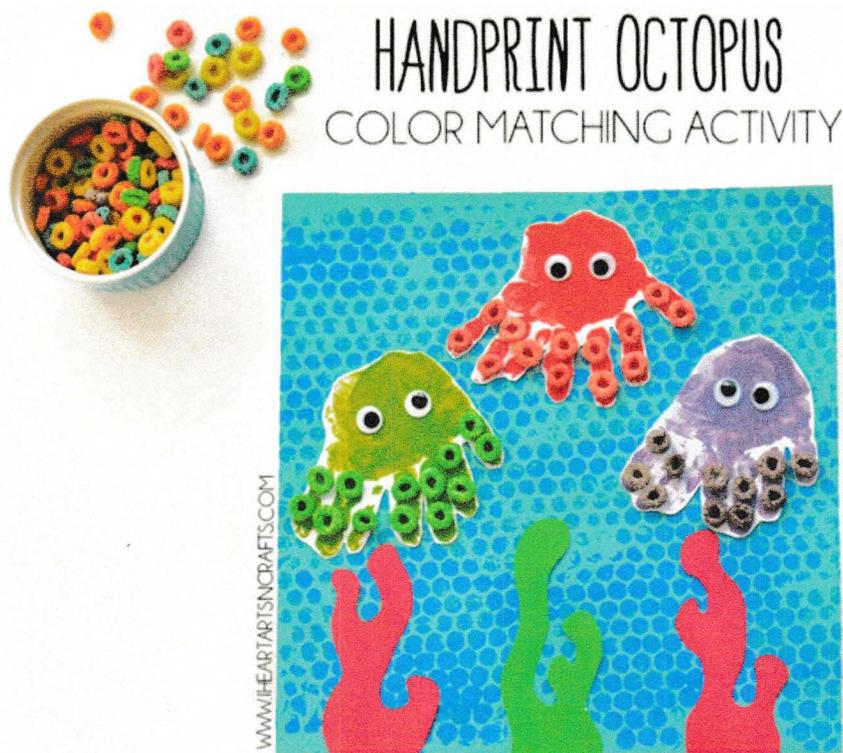
Handprint Octopus Color-Matching Activity

Materials Needed:

- Card stock
- Paint
- Fruit Loops
- Glue
- Scissors
- Googly Eyes

Directions:

1. Start by painting a darker blue shade of paint onto your bubble wrap. Take the painted bubble wrap and press it onto a light blue piece of card stock paper. This gives the background a nice under-the-sea look!
2. To start on the handprint octopus, use a sheet of white card stock and make handprints - it may take a few tries to get it right. Cut out the best one(s).
3. Glue the handprints to the blue card stock and add googly eyes.
4. The coral reef is optional, but you can cut out the shapes from different shades of card stock and glue those onto the bottom of your paper.
5. Finally, have your students start color-matching by taking colored cereal like Fruit Loops and matching them to the tentacles on the octopus.

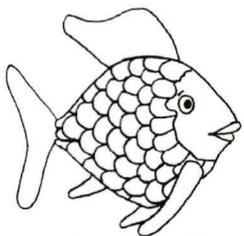


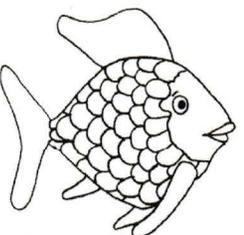
Writing Activity

Write Your Own Rainbow Fish Story



STEP 1: CREATE THE STORY

<u>Main Character</u>		<u>Setting</u>
		
<u>Problem</u>	Rainbow Fish	<u>Solution</u>

<u>Main Character</u>		<u>Setting</u>
		
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OPPOSITES WORKSHEET

Draw a line from each picture to its opposite.

