Ocean

Design Intent

Alive and vibrant, the world's oceans are a constantly changing landscape, dotted with every color known to man. From textured tentacles to shiny scales, *Ocean* tantalizes the senses and inspires the imagination. As the vastness of this foreign world unfolds, an overwhelming feeling of awe begins to take hold. Surrounded by the varied denizens of the deep, children can explore the nooks and crannies of the currents, swim through a sea of learning, and cast shadows in the saltwater alongside whales and sharks.

Technology Components

Submarine Monitor-Collection of video clips

Mural Features

- Blue Whale-The blue whale is the largest animal on the planet. It eats around 4 tons of krill daily and has a lifespan of 80 to 90 years. Blue Whales are found in all the world's oceans, except for the Arctic, and typically swim alone or in pairs.
- Jellyfish-Jellyfish have been around for millions of years. They can be found all over the world, from surface waters to the sea. Jellyfish do not have a brain, heart, bones, or eyes and are comprised of 95 percent water.
- Common Bottlenose Dolphin-Common bottlenose dolphins are found throughout the world in both offshore and coastal waters. They are highly intelligent and use sound both for communication and to hunt for food. Bottlenose dolphins feed on a variety of prey, such as fish, squid, and crustaceans. They are one of the most studied marine mammals.
- Orca-Orcas are the largest members of the dolphin family. They live in family pods of up to 50 individuals. Calves do not leave their mothers when they become adults. Orcas hunt in packs and feed on a variety of prey, such as fish, seals, dolphins, sharks, rays, octopuses, and whales. Often, a pod will specialize in eating one type of animal.

Mural Features

- Giant Pacific Octopus-The giant Pacific octopus is the largest octopus on earth, weighing more than 50 pounds as an adult. They eat a wide assortment of seafood, most commonly crustaceans, such as crabs, clams, and muscles. The giant Pacific octopus lives an average of four to five years in the wild and typically dies after breeding. They can be found across the Pacific Ocean and are best adapted to colder, oxygen and nutrient-rich waters.
- Manta Ray-Manta rays are some of the largest fish in the ocean, with wingspans reaching up to 26 feet and weights over 5,300 pounds. There are two species: the giant manta ray and the reef manta ray. These giant fish are filter feeders and eat large amounts of zooplankton. Manta rays are found in scattered locations around the world, typically giving birth to just one pup every two to three years.
- Coral Reef Fish (Blue and Yellow Tropical)-Reef fish live among or in close proximity to coral reefs. They come in a wide range of colors, shapes, and sizes, with species like clownfish, parrotfish, and angelfish being well-known examples. Most reef fish are characterized by their sharp, bony rays and spines in their fins. Reef fish play a crucial role in maintaining reef health by controlling algae growth.
- Great Hammerhead Shark-The great hammerhead is the largest of the nine identified species of this shark. They can grow up to 20 feet in length and weigh up to 1,000 pounds. Their unique shaped head and wide-set eyes give them a better visual range than most sharks. The great hammerhead primarily feeds on prey at the seafloor, such as stingrays, octopus, squid, and crustaceans.
- Loggerhead Sea Turtle-The loggerhead is named for its large head which supports the powerful jaw muscle, used to crush hard-shelled prey like clams and sea urchin. Loggerheads are a wide-ranging species, occurring throughout the temperate subtropical and tropical regions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.
- Great White Shark-The great white shark is the ocean's largest predatory fish, partially warm-blooded for speed, has amazing senses, and lives in coastal and open waters around the world, especially in temperate seas. It eats fish, seals, sea lions, and other marine animals. Great white sharks can grow up to 20 feet long and weigh over 4,000 pounds.
- Coral- Coral is a marine invertebrate that lives in large colonies. Each individual coral, called a polyp, secretes calcium carbonate to build a hard skeleton, which forms coral reefs over time. These reefs provide essential habitats for aquatic life and protect coastlines from erosion.
- Treasure Chest-Treasure chests are often associated with stories of pirates and shipwrecks and have symbolized hidden wealth and adventure.
- Shipwreck-A shipwreck is what's left of a sunken ship, usually resting on the ocean floor. These wrecks can result from storms, navigation errors, or collisions, and often become underwater habitats for marine life. Many shipwrecks hold historical importance and are studied by divers and archaeologists. According to UNESCO, more than 3 million shipwrecks exist around the world.

Themes to Explore

- Aquatic Animals (Salt Water)
- Aquatic Animal Homes
- Sink and Float
- Animal Life Cycles
- Weather and Climate
- Recreational Activities
- Preservation
- Careers
- Earth's Geography

Mounted Artifacts

- Submarine-A submarine is a ship that can move underwater and on the surface of water. Militaries and scientists use submarines to travel deep under the ocean. Military submarines tend to be very large and carry more than 100 people. Research submarines are smaller and may have mechanical arms, cameras, and other tools used to collect and document specimens.
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To Find Out More

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Geographic: Oceans
- UNESCO: Ocean Literacy