Our World
Ocean, Tropics, and Polar

Design Intent: Ocean

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 varying 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 the whales and sharks.

Design Intent: Tropics

The thick, leafy canopy dapples the ground with the little light that it lets through. Sounds of all kinds call out to you from countless unseen sources. Frogs, primates, and the most colorful of birds perch and preen, just waiting to be discovered. Deep hues of green surround the makeshift camp you now find yourself in. A naturalist's journals and observation tools sit next to local musical instruments and clothing, creating a sense of visual and cultural vividness. Keep your eyes peeled and your ears open in the *Tropics*. Explore the world around you and turn over every leaf. You'll never cease to be amazed.

Design Intent: Polar

While stark in nature, these frozen frontiers exude a serene beauty. Colorful skies strike a clean line against the crisp white snow drifts and the deep blues of the freezing water. *Polar* drops our intrepid explorers into the middle of a wintry wonderland, introducing them to the diverse residents that call it home. Hop across ice floes and traverse the tundra to meet up with your supply drop and stock up for your frosty adventure. Keep your eyes peeled for polar bears, take a deep breath of the arctic air, and take your first snowshoed steps toward the unknown.

Technology Components

Magic Window - Collection of video clips

Mural Features

- de Havilland Canada DHC-2 Beaver - The de Havilland Canada DHC-2 Beaver is a single-engine bush plane developed by de Havilland Canada and first flown in 1947. It was designed specifically for operations in remote areas, it can take off and land on short runways and can be equipped with wheels, skis, or floats. The Beaver became one of the most successful bush aircraft ever built and has been used for cargo transport, passenger service, aerial surveying, firefighting support, and access to wilderness communities.

Mural Features

- Macaw - Macaws are large parrots known for their long tail feathers and bright colors. They are highly intelligent birds with the ability to mimic human speech and solve problems, ranking them one of the most cognitively advanced parrot species. Most macaws feed on seeds, nuts, and fruits. Depending on the species, macaws can live 70-80 years or more.
- Bengal Tiger - The Bengal tiger, the largest of all big cat species, is easily identified by its orange coat and bold black stripes. Each tiger has a unique stripe pattern, and adult tigers have distinctive white spots of fur on the backs of their ears. The Bengal tiger is native to the forests and grasslands of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- Panther Chameleon - Panther chameleons are known for their bright and varied coloration, which can include reds, blues, greens, and yellows. Their specific color pattern depends on the region in Madagascar they originate from. Adult males typically grow 14–20 inches long, while females are smaller, usually reaching 8–14 inches. Panther chameleons are insectivores and eat crickets, grasshoppers, flies, roaches, and other small insects.
- Toucan-Toucans are brightly colored birds, native to Central and South America. They range in size and weight depending on species, measuring between 12.5 and 24 inches and weighing between 3.4 ounces and 1.9 pounds. Toucans are primarily frugivores and are important for rainforest health and diversity. These birds pass seeds from the fruit they eat through their digestive systems, which helps replant vegetation.
- Arctic Fox - The Arctic fox is a small mammal well-adapted to life in the frozen tundra. It weighs between 6 and 10 pounds and measures about 18 to 27 inches long. Arctic foxes are opportunistic eaters, feeding on lemmings, birds, eggs, and even leftover scraps from polar bear kills. Their thick fur changes color with the seasons, white in winter for camouflage in snow, and brown or gray in summer to blend with the tundra.
- 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.
- Snowy Owl - Snowy owls are native to the Arctic regions of North America and the Arctic tundra. In the summer, they are nomadic, moving in search of food. These owls typically measure between 20 and 27 inches long and weigh 3 to 6 pounds, making them the heaviest owl species in North America. Their diet mainly consists of lemmings, but they also hunt rodents, rabbits, small mammals, and various birds.
- Seahorse - A seahorse is a small marine fish that typically ranges from about 1 to 14 inches long, depending on the species. It eats tiny crustaceans such as copepods, shrimp larvae, and other small planktonic animals by sucking them into its long snout. Seahorses live in shallow coastal waters around the world, often hiding among seagrass, coral reefs, and mangroves. The male carries the eggs in a special pouch and gives birth to the babies.
- Juvenile Emperor Penguin - The emperor penguin is the largest of the 18 penguin species. Adults can grow to approximately 50 inches tall and weigh up to 100 pounds. It has a black-and-white body with yellow markings near its head. Adapted to the harsh Antarctic climate, it endures extreme cold by huddling in groups and relying on a thick layer of blubber and dense feathers for insulation. Emperor penguins are amazing divers, searching for krill, fish, and squid to fulfill their diet.

Mural Features

- 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.
- Green Sea Turtle - The green sea turtle is one of the largest hard-shelled sea turtles, typically measuring 3 to 4 feet long and weighing up to 400 pounds. It is the only sea turtle species that is herbivorous as an adult. Green sea turtles have a serrated beak designed for feeding on seagrass and algae, which gives their body fat a green color. These migratory marine reptiles thrive in tropical and subtropical coastal waters and often return to the same nesting beaches where they were born to lay eggs. Due to threats such as fishing bycatch and habitat loss, they are listed as endangered in many regions.
- Reindeer - A reindeer is a large deer that can grow up to 7 feet long and weigh between 180 and 400 pounds. It eats grasses, mosses, lichens, leaves, and other plants, especially a type of lichen called “reindeer moss.” Reindeer live in the cold Arctic and subarctic regions of Europe, Asia, and North America. Both male and female reindeer can grow antlers, which is unique among deer species.
- 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.
- Plumeria (Table Top) - A plumeria is a small tropical tree or shrub known for its fragrant, colorful flowers that can be white, yellow, pink, red, or multicolored. It grows in warm regions such as Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and other tropical and subtropical climates around the world. Plumeria flowers are often used to make Hawaiian leis and can bloom for many months, attracting butterflies and other pollinators with their sweet scent.
- Río Sonador, Puerto Plata (Table Top) - Río Sonador is a river in the Yásica area of Puerto Plata, in the Dominican Republic, known for its clear water and vibrant flora. Visitors enjoy swimming, tubing, and kayaking along the banks and in the river. It’s famous for having some of the cleanest water in the country, making it a popular destination for vacationers.
- Waterfall (Table Top) - A waterfall is a natural feature where a river or stream flows over a steep drop. The flow of water drops into a pool below, creating mist and sound. Over time, waterfalls can shape the landscape by eroding rock and carving deep gorges.
- Island (Table Top) - An island is any area of land completely surrounded by water that is smaller than a continent. Islands can be found in any body of water, including oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers, and they range in size from tiny rocky outcrops to large landmasses like Greenland.
- Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) (Table Top) - The northern lights are colorful displays of light that appear in the night sky near Earth's polar regions. They form when charged particles from the Sun collide with gases in Earth's atmosphere, creating glowing waves of green, pink, purple, and red light. The best places to see them are in northern areas such as Canada, Norway, and Iceland. The lights can appear as shimmering curtains, arcs, or ribbons.

Mural Features

- Polar Bear (Table Top) - Polar bears are the largest bear in the world and the Arctic's top predator. They primarily eat seals and spend 50% of their time hunting. Polar bears roam the Arctic ice sheets across long distances and use their large front paws to swim in coastal waters. The polar bear, with no natural predators, has no fear of humans.
- Iceberg (Table Top) - Icebergs are huge blocks of ice that break off from glaciers and float in the ocean, sometimes as large as houses or buildings. Icebergs are made from frozen freshwater; they originate from compacted snow rather than saltwater. The largest recorded iceberg, which broke off from Antarctica, measured over 656 feet tall and spanned 4,250 square miles.
- Silver Arctic Cargo Ship (Table Top) - The Silver Arctic cargo ship is a Norwegian-flagged general cargo ship built in 2021 that transports goods between ports, including routes in northern and Arctic regions. The ship is about 243 feet long and can carry approximately 2,700 tons of cargo.
- Coral Reef (Table Top) - 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.
- Spotted Eagle Ray (Table Top) - The spotted eagle ray is a large ray that lives in warm tropical and subtropical oceans, often near coral reefs, lagoons, and coastal waters. It can grow up to 16 feet across from wingtip to wingtip, including its long tail. Spotted eagle rays eat clams, crabs, shrimp, and other small animals that live on the ocean floor. They are easy to recognize by their dark bodies covered with bright white spots and are strong swimmers that can sometimes leap completely out of the water.
- Jellyfish (Table Top) - 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.
- Gorgonian Sea Fan (Table Top) - A gorgonian sea fan is a type of soft coral that grows in warm ocean waters, especially on coral reefs in the Caribbean Sea and other tropical regions. It eats tiny plankton and other microscopic food particles that drift by in ocean currents. Gorgonian sea fans have flexible, fan-shaped branches that sway with the water and provide shelter for many small marine animals.

Mounted Artifacts

- Igloo - An igloo is a dome-shaped shelter made of compacted snow, traditionally built by the Inuit and other Indigenous peoples of the Arctic. Its design insulates against the cold by trapping body heat inside, making it a warm location in freezing conditions. Igloos are often used as temporary homes or hunting shelters in snowy environments.
- Hut - In a tropical rainforest, huts and houses can range from simple, temporary shelters to more permanent structures, often adapted to the local environment and available materials. Simple shelters might be huts made of branches and leaves.
- Aquarium - Aquariums often conduct scientific research to learn more about marine life and how to protect ocean ecosystems. They also help rescue and rehabilitate injured sea turtles, seals, and other marine animals. The largest aquarium in the world is Chimelong Spaceship located in Zhuhai, China, which holds millions of gallons of water and thousands of marine animals.

Themes to Explore: Ocean

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

Themes to Explore: Tropics

- Tropical Animals
- Rainforest Layers
- Fruits and Plants
- Islands
- Tropical Weather
- Culture
- Conservation

Themes to Explore: Polar

- Arctic Animals
- Explorers
- Properties of Water and Ice
- Night Sky Observations
- Arctic Recreation
- Inuit Culture

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List of Hansa Animals

- Pelican, Sea Lion, Toucan, Macaw, Sea Tortoise, Cockatiel, Gorilla, Penguin

To Find Out More

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

To Find Out More

- National Geographic Kids
- NASA Earth Observatory
- San Diego Zoo: Wildlife Alliance
- National Wildlife Federation
- World Wildlife Fund
- NSF: Arctic and Antarctic