

In this unit, students will be given tools and strategies for the critical reading of informational text about oceans.

What's the story?

In this unit, students will explore six **ocean ecosystems** and learn about the organisms that live there. **Characteristics of the ocean**, including light, depth, and salt, will be examined to learn about how life survives in different environments. Students will also learn about the **relationships between organisms and between organisms and their environment**, including how they help each other thrive.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn to **read texts closely** and carefully. Informational texts are rich in information, so students will have opportunities to exercise **critical thinking skills** and **discuss their learning** with peers.

Students will work towards completing an **informational writing project** which reinforces the unit's **analysis of nonfiction text**. Students will learn to comprehend and analyze new information including scientific ideas and vocabulary. Activities in this unit are designed to increase students' **comprehension and analysis skills**, as well as provide opportunities to examine text in collaborative groups. Students will also learn and practice grade-level **language skills**, as well as **understanding new vocabulary**.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What are some characteristics of the ocean?
Follow up: Do these change depending on where you are in the ocean?
2. How do marine plants and animals find food?
Follow up: Are some places more or less challenging to find food?
3. What is a symbiotic relationship?
Follow up: Can you describe an example of a symbiotic relationship?
4. What is a marine biologist?
Follow up: Can you describe the work they do?
5. What are some ways people help marine ecosystems thrive?
Follow up: What is a way we can help keep the ocean healthy?
6. What is the trophic pyramid?
Follow up: How are food webs and the trophic pyramid connected?