



Key Stage 2 Lesson 1 – Amazing Oysters

Practical activity – Filter feeding demonstration

Introduction

Oysters, like Ollie, may not look like much from the outside, you may even think that they're just a rock or part of the seabed. However, oysters are very special animals! Oysters clean the seawater around them, improving the water and making the area better for other animals and plants to live in. A single oyster can clean a bathtub of water every day!

Create your own oyster out of a coffee filter and watch how oysters clean the sea by filtering out small particles from the water.



To make your oyster, you will need (per person):

- A coffee filter
- Coloured pens/pencils
- A small pompom
- Glue

For the filter feeding demonstration, you will need (per demonstration):

- 4 coffee filters
- A large mixing bowl
- A sieve that will sit on top of the mixing bowl
- A jug filled with half a litre of water
- A teaspoon
- A jar of parsley or other green herb
- A jar of garlic granules
- A jar of peppercorns

Making Your Oyster

- Fold the coffee filter in half. This represents the oyster's shell.
- Glue a pompom into the centre of the coffee filter shell to represent the oyster. Oysters are usually pale in colour but you could add any colour pompom to your shell! You could also draw eyes onto your pompom oyster.
- Decorate the outside of your oyster shell by adding growth lines and barnacles.



Filtering Demonstration

1. Place the sieve on top of the mixing bowl so that it rests on top of the bowl.
2. Place four coffee filters into the sieve. The coffee filters represent oysters.
3. Add four teaspoons of parsley to the jug of water; this represents phytoplankton found in seawater.
4. Add four teaspoons of garlic granules to the jug of water; this represents sand.
5. Add one teaspoon of peppercorns to the jug of water; this represents other small particles found in seawater.
6. Mix the water with the teaspoon and look at how murky the water looks. Do you think plants and animals would like to live in water like this?
7. Slowly pour the water over the coffee filters in the sieve.
8. Notice how clear the water is once it has been poured over the coffee filters. Coffee filters clean the water just like oysters clean seawater by filtering small particles out of the water. Why do you think this is important for other marine organisms?

