

HARVEST of the MONTH in the CLASSROOM



SEAFOOD

HISTORY

It is difficult to write up a comprehensive history of seafood because fish has been a part of the human diet since Paleolithic times. Archaeologists have excavated ancient sites full of shells and fish bones, indicating our ancestors ate fish. Cave paintings depicting seafood have also been discovered. The Nile river was a crucial source of seafood for the ancient Egyptians, who left tools, paintings, and documentation on papyrus about the importance of fish to their diet and civilization. The ancient Israelites, also left a written record of eating seafood. In fact, for every ancient civilization from Greece, Rome, China, Japan to the indigenous people of the Americas, fishing was a central part of their diets.

FUN FACTS

The Atlantic Sailfish is the fastest fish - it travels as fast as a car on the highway.

The Massachusetts State Fish is the Atlantic Cod.

There are over 25,000 species of fish. 3,000 different species live in the Gulf of Maine (including the MA coastline).

Fish have been on the Earth for more than 450 million years (even before dinosaurs!).

FISHERMAN BIO



Doug Feeney fishes 15 miles off the coast of Chatham, Massachusetts in a place referred to as "Crab Ledge" aboard his fishing vessel Noah. In his 26 years of fishing, he has seen the decline of our state's fisheries, and is an advocate for more sustainable fishing practices, including eating locally caught fish. Doug mostly fishes for dogfish and skate, some of which he sells dockside off of his boat and to a wholesaler called Red's Best. To encourage more people to eat dogfish, he's developed products such as a Noah Burger and fish sticks, which are available in some school cafeterias. *Photo Credit: Greta Rybus*

SHELLFISH IDENTIFICATION

Grades K-2 • 20 minutes



SEAFOOD

OBJECTIVES

Students will learn about different types of shellfish.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

What types of seafood are native to where we live?

MA STATE FRAMEWORK(s)

K-2 Life Science

MATERIALS NEEDED

Shellfish Game Board
Shells: oysters, mussels, quahogs, scallops

PROCEDURE

Create groups of 4-6 children.

1. Show the children the game board and see if they can identify any of the shellfish or seafood-related items. Explain that "shellfish" is food we get from the ocean that lives inside a shell. Ask whether anyone eats shellfish at home. Many children will say no- ask them if they've ever tried clam chowder. Many will say yes. Remind them that clams in chowder are a type of seafood!
2. Put the shells in the middle of the table. Discuss what's similar and different about them. Do they feel like they're made of the same material? Are they all the same size? What about the texture? Hold up one at a time and say its name, and have the children repeat it.
3. Explain to the students that they are going to match the shells to their spot on the game board. Work together to match one shell to each spot on the board.
4. Give each child a different shell and let them try to find its correct spot on the board. If they're unsure, point out the shells that are on the board already and have them find which one is the most similar.

At the end, review all the shellfish types and make sure all the shells are matched to the correct type of shellfish. Together, practice saying their names again.

For older students:

Eliminate step 3 and see if they can figure out where the shells belong on their own.

EXTENSIONS & VARIATIONS

1. Shell painting- turn large shells into signs for the garden
2. Shell prints- paint a shell and press it on paper to see what textures come out! Scallops are especially good for this.

SHELLFISH IDENTIFICATION

SHELLFISH GAME BOARD



SCALLOP



OYSTER



MUSSELS



CHERRYSTONES



QUAHOG



STEAMERS