

Lesson Plan for Ahoy!

Written and Illustrated by Sophie Blackall

“Join a child captain and parent first mate as they embark on a wild high seas adventure...all without leaving the living room! This imaginative romp of a picture book is filled with glorious illustrations from a beloved Caldecott Medalist and New York Times bestselling creator.”

[Penguin Random House](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/1000000/ahoy-by-sophie-blackall/)

Sensory

Icy Plunge

An easy and engaging sensory activity, ice baths also provide plenty of opportunities for students to examine the natural action of ice melting. Fill a container with both ice and water and let your students explore! You can include some toy animals (such as the sharks from the story) for added engagement and conversation.

To extend the activity, use two containers with ice but place hot water in one and cold in the other! What happens? How long does the ice take to melt in each container? Is there a way to stop the melting?

Art

Map Making

The child and parent in *Ahoy!* create their own map before setting sail. This is an easy art activity to encourage in your own classrooms. The characters in the story simply use paper, colored pencils, and their own imagination. As a bonus (and to increase spatial awareness) you could encourage your students to map out the classroom!



Literacy

Vocabulary

Ahoy! is filled with words a sailor might use! Ask your prekindergarten students what words such as “furl” and “turnbuckle” mean. Write down their answers and display them. (Sophie has kindly included a glossary at the beginning of her book for the true definitions.)

Talk Like a Pirate Day

You don’t actually have to wait for National Talk Like a Pirate Day to implement your own “Talk Like a Pirate Day”! Try saying “Ahoy” instead of “Hello” and “Aye, aye, Captain” instead of “Yes”.

Visuals

Below is a collection of sailing/ocean vocabulary cards to include in the classroom. These are great for all ages.

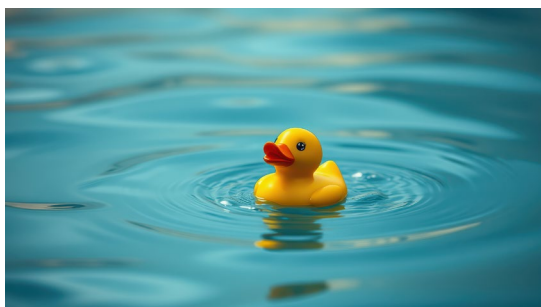


STEM

Will it Float?

This activity is an excellent way to incorporate a variety of STEM concepts in an engaging and thoughtful manner. Take any kind of container (plastic storage box, large mixing bowl, etc.) and fill it about halfway with water. Collect a random assortment of items from around your classroom. Anything from a paperclip to a wooden block! So long as you don’t mind it getting wet. Have your students predict whether it will sink or float (bonus points if you write their predictions down beforehand) and then toss the item in!

To extend the activity for older children, have them create a “boat” out of tin foil. After they are done, place items that originally sank inside the boat and watch what happens! Will it sink again?



Blocks

Solid Foundation

The parent and child in *Ahoy!* find themselves stranded on an iceberg! We discovered a long time ago that icebergs are quite a bit bigger under the water than they are above. What happens if we try to build an “iceberg” with blocks? Does it need a big base to stand up? Can we make it a smaller base? What happens? Help your students explore these concepts in the block center or at the table in small groups!

Social Emotional

We are in the Doldrums

The child in *Ahoy!* gets frustrated when their parent has to take a phone call which interrupts their sailing adventure.

Talk with your students about times their own adventures have been put on hold. How did they feel? What did they do about it? Help them brainstorm ideas for dealing with future frustrations. With younger children, demonstrate breathing deeply when they are upset or even when you get to feeling unhappy too!

Drama

What Else Could It Be?

Children are excellent at pretending; a quality Sophie Blackall captures beautifully in *Ahoy!* Throughout the book, we see everyday items used in creative and inventive ways. The rug becomes the ocean and the vacuum becomes a giant squid. Look through the book and add some of the items to your classroom: brooms, paper towel rolls, gym socks (clean ones!!), and wooden kitchen spoons, to name a few. How do your students use them? Do they emulate them the way the child in the book does? Or do they come up with their own storylines and adventures?



Music

Sea Shanties

“Shanties were a heterogeneous group of songs, with diverse origins. Some came to sea from shore, and we can trace individual shanties back to African American work songs and spirituals, theater songs of vaudeville and the music-hall, and even much older British songs and ballads. Others were pretty clearly written by sailors at sea.” [A Deep Dive Into Sea Shanties | Folklife Today](#)

Here are some excellent examples of sailor songs and sea shanties:

[Blow Boy Blow](#)

[We All Going Ashore](#)

[Roll the Old Chariot](#)



Comments or questions?

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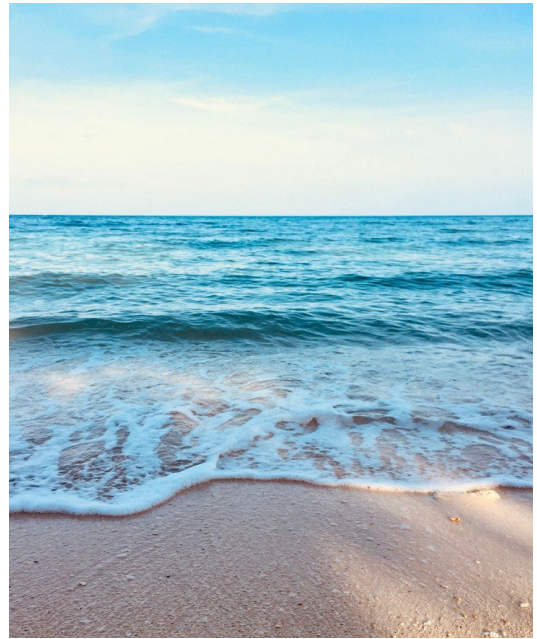
NPL's Early Literacy Initiatives are brought to you by



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Ship



Ocean



Shark



Map



Wave



Squid



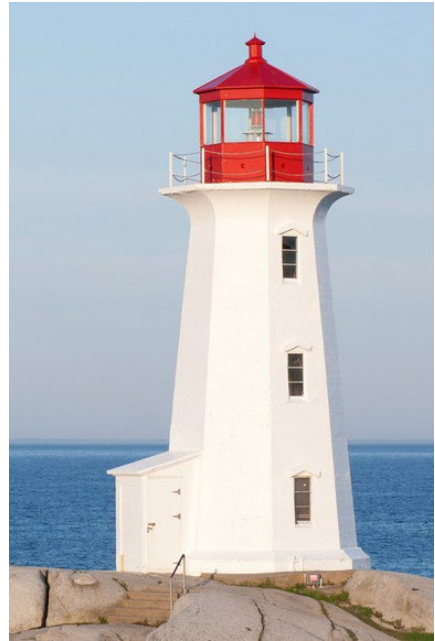
Iceberg



Seagull



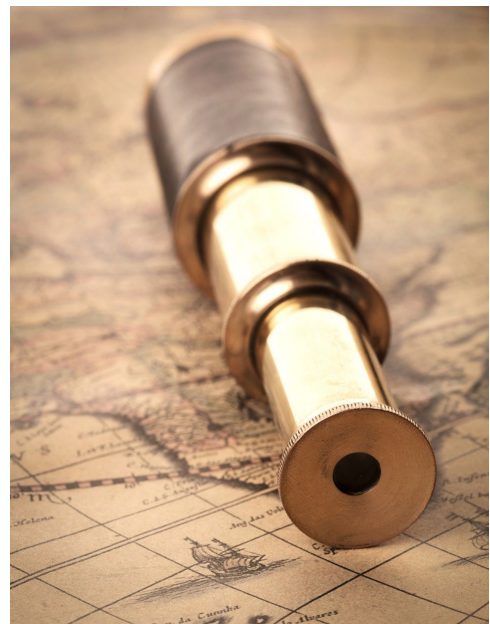
Anchor



Lighthouse



Lifesaver



Spyglass