

More Connection Ideas (Page 1)

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Moving Water!

Ask your students to name different places they see moving water. What are different ways that water moves around the world? Then watch *The Riddle in a Bottle* or read *A Pirate's Quest*. What other ways does water move around the world? Where did they see examples in the book or movie? (Examples in the book and movie include ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, the ocean, water fountains, sinks, drains, rain, snow, evaporation, clouds, waterfalls, currents, tides, waves and the surf.)

Inflatable Globe Toss

Find an inflatable globe. Toss the globe to a student in the class. When the student catches it, count how many fingers are on water and how many fingers are on land. Keep a running tally for the whole class to see. Then toss the globe to another student. How many fingers are on water? On land? After several tosses, look at the class tally. Do calculations based on the math skills of the class. How many more times did fingers land in water than on land? What percentage of times did students' fingers land on water? In *The Riddle in a Bottle*, a second grade student says about 75% of the earth's surface is covered by water. How does this compare to the tally? Do this exercise several times and make a chart comparing the results.

Beach Combing Treasures

Look at the page in *A Pirate's Quest* where the boy finds the peg leg rolling in the surf. What objects has he collected while strolling the beach? The illustration includes mermaid's purses (skate egg cases), a glass fishing float, seashells, sand dollars, sea beans and driftwood. How did these objects reach the beach? Have students draw their own beachscape.

Rubber Ducky Journey – Map and Writing Extension

Watch the short section from *The Riddle in a Bottle* called A Random Thought from an Angry Crab. The crab tells a true story about how a ship sank in the Pacific Ocean and spilled a bunch of bathtub toys. The toys drifted on the ocean's currents around the world, even through the frozen Arctic to the Atlantic Ocean. Make your own map in the classroom to follow the duck's journey on ocean currents. (A site that shows the the rubber duckies' path on the ocean currents is: <http://strangemaps.wordpress.com/2008/05/20/275-the-friendly-floatees-world-tour/>)

At <http://beachcombersalert.org>, you can read more about the rubber duckies, which are researched by oceanographer Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer. What other objects are scientists using to study ocean currents? Dr. Ebbesmeyer collects Nike shoes, bird eggs, sea beans, hockey gloves and more. Have students write a fictional story about something that fell off a boat in the ocean. Did it float? Where did the currents take it? What creatures did it pass by? Did it eventually drift onto a beach? Did someone find it?



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A Read Aloud and Authors' Word Choice

A Read Aloud is an important part of education. Students are exposed to fluent readers and learn fluency, inflection, sentence structure, tone, and voice. Read *A Pirate's Quest* to your classroom. Then ask students to get in groups and study certain pages to read aloud. Let them experiment with different kinds of voices and tones. Authors often make choices to give their characters a unique voice. What ways have Laura and Robert Sams used words to give the pirate his own voice? Look for words like 'me and yarrrrrr and grandpappy.

Balloon Water Droplet Journey from the River to the Sea

In *The Riddle in a Bottle*, watch the section where the 2nd grade classroom solves the riddle. At the end of that section, the students recreate the journey of water from the Great Lakes to Niagara Falls to the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Atlantic Ocean. Choose a lake or river near your school and work with students to write down main waterways from your area to the ocean. Write down important parts of the journey onto index cards. Have students hold those index cards in the order that water flows. Pass a blue balloon (representing a water droplet) from student to student in the order that water travels, until the water droplet finally reaches the ocean. Encourage the class to say what's on each card together, as the water moves from student to student. As an extension, mix up the students holding cards and see how fast they can put themselves back in the right order. Divide the class into small groups and have each group act out their own water droplet journey.

Fresh Water Habits versus Salt Water Habitats

Watch *The Riddle in a Bottle* or read *A Pirate's Quest*. What animals live in or near fresh water? What animals live in or near salt water? How do these habitats differ?

Frog Opera

Watch the muskrat story in *The Riddle in a Bottle*, which includes a frog opera. Watch the frogs calling at night. Write down the names of the frogs in the order they call during the springtime. What do the different calls sound like? What order do they call? Divide the class into different kinds of frogs and mimic the frog songs. Wood frogs say "Quacker quacker" quickly. Spring peepers says "peep peep" like a high whistle. Chorus frogs say "whaaaat?" with a grovelly sound like running your fingernail over a plastic comb. Tree frogs make a high trilling sound. Green frogs say "Plunk plunk" like plucking a banjo. Turn your classroom into a forest frog opera by having the students call like frogs, starting with the wood frogs and ending with the green frogs.

Riddle Writing

In *The Riddle in a Bottle*, The Riddle Solvers receive a riddle from the ocean. Have students research an animal and write a riddle about it. Share the riddles with other students in the class. Can they guess the answer?

The Family Heirloom Peg Leg Song

Download *The Peg Leg Song* that inspired the book *A Pirate's Quest* for free at www.apiratesquest.com. Use the song in the classroom for fun or as a reward!

