



Oceans

Amanda Bennett

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Unit Studies — The Easy Way!

Welcome to Amanda Bennett's easy-to-use unit studies written in a cross—curricular approach about many interesting and important topics. Using simplicity and readily-available resources to enhance the learning process, your children can learn about these topics in ways never before possible. Unit studies allow students to use a natural learning process—one that is so familiar to us as we become adults, and yet is far removed from textbooks, full of concentrated and condensed facts and figures.

Using these studies, your children will learn about a particular topic, covering the science, history, geography, art and any other areas of study that apply to the topic. For example, while working on the Oceans Unit Study, they will discover the important role of oceans. They will learn about the geography of Earth and the oceans, the amazing variety of life in the ocean, the history of ocean exploration, along with the resources that the ocean provides and much more.

These books make learning a fascinating and thought-provoking adventure, which is the way that learning SHOULD be. Life-long learners are successful, inquisitive and engaging, contributing so much to our world. Let's face it—many people would love to give up their dry and fact-filled textbooks to try unit studies, but don't have the time to do the research and /or preparation, or the confidence to try a new method of learning.

I understand these problems and hesitations all too well. As we considered educating our own children using unit studies, we had the same questions. Where do we begin, how do I structure the study, what do I cover, how do I record the work? This series of books is a product of this adventure—***designed to make your path simpler and your load lighter, while guiding your students along a successful road of learning.***

Written with you and your family in mind, you will know what to do each day; what to cover; and what is important to study about oceans. The research and preparation have been done for you. The daily plan and assignments are here, ready for immediate use. You will find that this guide uses books and Ask AI Prompts as a primary resource. This has been done for many reasons, among which include the wealth of information now available online for in-depth studies, the ease of accessing this information for most parents and teachers, as well as the fact that it is affordable and much simpler to use than numerous trips to the library or bookstore.

There are Ask AI Prompts included in this study. From virtual tours of aquariums around the world, to watching the surf and shore at places in other countries, you will find that the Internet holds a wealth of information for a study of the oceans. There are online interactive quizzes (I didn't do too well on the Fish Identification quizzes), interactive games, coloring pages and online puzzles. These Ask AI resources can add so much to the enjoyment and understanding of study of oceans.

All of a sudden, the students look forward to beginning their studies, to see where the adventure will take them today—New Zealand, whale watching, or sea turtle tracking—wait and see!

This book is divided into four weeks of study. Designed for all ages, from early elementary through adult, each day has a basic structured learning plan for Elementary Grades (**Lower Level**) and one for Jr./Sr. High Grades (**Upper Level**). Depending on the ages and needs of your children, you can choose to use all or just a few of the daily assignments. For example, a six-year-old student might be assigned only one or two spelling words and perhaps just one of the **Read and Discover** questions, while a ten-year-old student might do most of the **Lower Level** assignments for each day. The same holds true for Jr./Sr. High school students. While most high school juniors or seniors should be able to complete all of the daily assignments on the **Upper Level**, a fourteen year old might not be ready to handle that much work in a day. Use these lessons as a tool, and customize them to fit your family and your children's needs. What doesn't get completed this year can be left for further study next year.

The Daily Learning Plan is comprised of the following basic components:

- **Today's Passage**—to be read, copied, and perhaps even memorized.
- **Words of Wisdom (WOW)** —spelling/vocabulary words and their definitions to be written, studied, and learned.
- **People and Places to Know**—Important and interesting people and places will be investigated during the study, which will be included in the student's timeline (included in the Appendix).
- **Read and Discover**—questions that must be researched and answered as each topic is explored.

Introduction

Remember the first time that you “heard” the ocean in a seashell, or felt the sand shift from beneath your feet as the surf washed by? The cry of the seagull, the steady rhythm of the surf on the shore, the sting of the salt on your face—all of these and more remind us of the tranquility you can experience when visiting the ocean. A visit to the shore, or beach, was always a wonderful adventure for me as a child. Children learn so much when at the ocean—from the texture of sand and sandcastle-building, the thrill of watching a hermit crab take a stroll around a tidal pool, the cool touch of the water and the force of the ocean waves as they splash along the shore. Even if you and your children cannot visit the ocean, perhaps you can visit a lake or river nearby—the adventure and thrill is similar, and there are so many fun memories to make along the way.

One of the easiest ways that I have found to get children excited about learning is to choose a topic that is interesting to them. The ocean and all that it holds can be very interesting to kids of all ages, and it is a great joy for me to be able to provide this study for you and your family. Take a minute to ask your children what they would like to learn about the ocean, and you might be amazed at their ideas. They may ask questions like “how big is a whale?” to “why is the ocean blue?” and “where does surf come from?” Their questions are important and help you see where to place extra emphasis during the study.

While the ocean can appear beautiful and peaceful at first glance, it is teeming with life and has a colorful history that we cannot overlook. From the site of a breaching whale, to the playful rolling of dolphin in the waves, along with the sounds of the creaking and groaning of a wooden ship under full sail on its way to Treasure Island, you and your family will enjoy studying the vast oceans of the world.

Because the oceans cover more than two-thirds of this planet and have been around since creation, they provide a broad study topic for all ages. I have tried to touch on the main areas in this study, realizing that you and your family will probably want to pursue some of these topics in greater depth. At the end of each week’s lessons, you will find a section titled “Additional Resources” that contains Ask AI Prompts for further study.

This study includes:

- History and exploration of the oceans
- World geography
- Oceanography
- Marine Biology
- Ocean explorers
- And much more!

Many of you have been able to visit the ocean, while some of you or your children have not yet had that wonderful opportunity. It is my hope that this study brings you closer to “seeing” the ocean from your home and getting a feel for its amazing beauty and importance. A study of the ocean will provide a lasting awareness of the delicate balance between all of the elements of creation—animal life, plant life, the food chain, weather, and water.

Because we were fortunate to live by the ocean for many years, I had the opportunity to experience the thrill of seeing the ocean every day, walking the beach on new adventures with our family, and staying amazed at the beauty and the power of the ocean. I have tried to share what we have seen and learned through this book—to put together the lessons and resources that will enable you to share the ocean with your own children and provide a lifetime of memories and knowledge. Grab a towel, a pail and shovel, throw some sand in the back yard and come join in the quest. As always, enjoy the adventure!

USING AI RESOURCES WITH THIS STUDY

As we have worked to create excellent and comprehensive learning resources for every one of our unit studies, we have taken a first step into navigating the world of AI as a component of education. Because AI is already typically a part of many traditional school approaches, we have explored various opportunities to incorporate it in a way that is safe and effective for you and your family.

And we are so glad we did! AI, used well, can add a valuable layer of exploration for curious learners. You’ll find that throughout this study, we include Ask AI prompts to use with resources like Google Gemini, ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Perplexity and other AI options.

You will notice that we use AI only as an enhancement to learning, never the primary resource. **We will always recommend books as the spine of any study.**

Two things to remember to ensure AI learning is safe and beneficial:

1. It is important that a parent **always** supervise a child’s use of an AI chatbot, to help guide their learning and ensure a safe experience.
2. When your child wants to ask his/ her own questions of the chatbot, make sure that you help create a kid-friendly AI prompt, giving specific instructions to the chatbot - including asking for age appropriate answers for your child’s age.

"I am 7 years old. What is a hammerhead shark?"

And now, let’s turn the page and begin this learning adventure with your child!



OCEANS

Week One

Learning Objectives:

- Become familiar with the definition of Earth's oceans.
- Develop an understanding of the creation of the oceans.
- Learn the names and locations of the main oceans.
 - Study the various zones/layers of the ocean.
 - Investigate several marine life species.



Oceans:

Week One — Day One

LOWER LEVEL

Take Me There

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share video for kids on: Hammerhead Fin Cam and a Video: Under the Sea.

Today's Quote

Carefully copy today's quote into your Oceans Journal:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

(Genesis 1:1)

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Oceans Journal. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am ___ years old. Please define these ocean words:

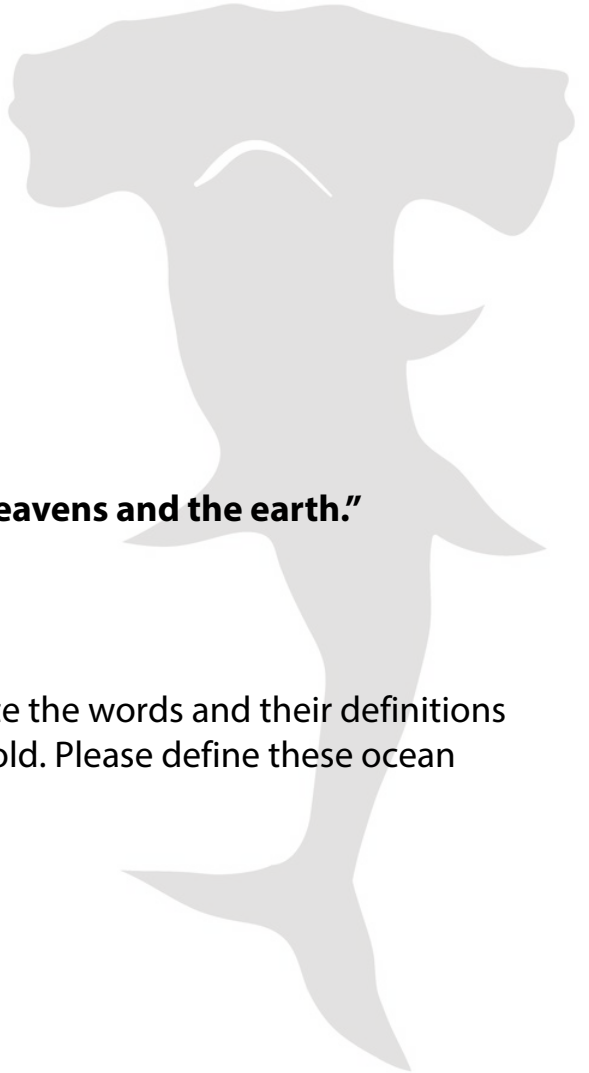
animal
area
bait
bay
beach

Interesting People and Places

Using books or the Ask AI Prompts shown below, look up **Noah**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Who was Noah, and what did he have to do with the ocean? Please share a Noah Coloring Page.

Write or narrate your answer in your journal, and draw a picture of Noah and his adventure.





OCEANS

Week Four

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about sea life along the ocean shore.
- Learn about modern ocean exploration.
 - Study the resources of the ocean.
- Investigate several marine life species.



Oceans:

Week Four — Day One

UPPER LEVEL

Take Me There

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share video on: Harbor Seals at the Zoo and a video on: Kids Meet a Seal

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Oceans Journal:

"Did we not sail for a month of nights through a phosphorescent sea, and behold in the firmament the constellations of both hemispheres at once?"

Phil Robinson, From *Go Down to the Sea in Ships*, 1886

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Oceans Journal. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the ___ grade. Please define these ocean terms:

longitude
mammal
marine
marine biology
phylum

Interesting People and Places

Using books, Internet sites or Ask AI Prompts shown below, look up **Abel Tasman**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Who was Abel Tasman, and what did he have to do with the ocean? *Summarize your answer in your journal, describing his adventure and how this experience changed his life.*

Read and Discover

Using books, Internet sites or Ask AI Prompts shown below, find the answers to these questions and record your answers in your journal along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

1. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the __ grade. I would like to learn about the **Gray Seal**.
 - a. What is their distribution—where on the globe can they be found?
 - b. How big are they when they are full-grown?
 - c. What do they eat?
 - d. Describe the classification of Gray Seals:
 - i. Kingdom:
 - ii. Phylum:
 - iii. Class:
 - iv. Order:
 - v. Family:
 - vi. Genus:
 - vii. Species:
2. What are the different geographical features that you find along most beaches?
Draw a diagram of typical beach topography and label the important geographical features. What kinds of sea life can you expect to find at the beach? Where does the white sand come from?
3. Why is the ocean salty?



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