

Hudson RiverKids Story Hour

Wildlife Puppets

Activity Time: 20-30 minutes

Themes: Hudson River Estuary; Biodiversity; Adaptations; Habitat

Activity Summary:

This week's story is *Ocean! Waves for All* written by Stacy McNulty and illustrated by David Litchfield. It tells the story of Ocean and the life that depends on him.

Just like the ocean, the Hudson River Estuary is a biodiverse ecosystem that provides habitat for hundreds of species of aquatic wildlife. Comb jellies, mud crabs and diamondback terrapins are just a few of the many animals that live in the Hudson River. Create your own Wildlife Puppet and watch your critters come to life!

Materials:

- Small paper bowls or plates
- String, cut in approx. 12 inch segments
- Construction paper or scrap paper
- Streamers or toilet paper cut in narrow strips (for jellyfish)
- Markers or paint
- Googly eyes
- Dowel, chopstick or stick
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Tape or glue

Instructions:

1. Punch a hole in the center of the bowl using the pencil large enough to thread the string through.
2. Thread the string through the bottom of the bowl and tie a knot at the end so that the bowl hangs upside down.
3. While the bowl is upside down, decorate the hood of your animal with marker or paint. See the pictures below for examples of a crab, turtle and jellyfish puppet. Feel free to use your imagination!
4. Trace the animal's limbs, tail, head etc on construction paper, color and add details then, cut them out. For jellyfish, cut the streamers into 9-12 inch pieces.
5. Tape the pieces along the rim of the bowl as pictured below.
6. Glue on the googly eyes or draw them on.
7. Tie the string to the end of the dowel, adjusting the length to your preference.
8. Watch your puppet swing and sway!

