

2018-2019

# DISCOVERY

Resource Guide

A BRAND NEW PRODUCTION

# THE RAINBOW FISH



adapted by Jim Morrow  
from the book by Marcus Pfister  
produced by Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

**VTA**

VICTORIA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

**Wednesday, January 30, 2019  
at 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.**



**W**elcome to the 2018-2019 Discovery Series at Victoria Theatre Association. We are very excited to be your education partner in providing professional arts experiences to you and your students!

*Sharing* is a concept that many of us struggle with, but also a concept that teaches us life lessons along the way. *The Rainbow Fish* is no different. In Marcus Pfister's beautiful book, *Rainbow Fish* goes on a personal journey to understand the importance of friendship, honesty and why sharing her gifts with those around her is a big part of being happy. In that spirit, I'm happy to share with you and your students this beautiful story today.

The information and activities in this resource guide have been carefully crafted to help you and your students explore the many ways a live theatre experience can open up learning opportunities. Grade level icons will help you determine which activities are good for students, too. And don't forget to take advantage of the local resources listed inside to extend the play-going experience and make even more curricular connections for you and your students. Thank you again and welcome!

**Gary Minyard**  
Vice President -  
Education & Engagement



# Curriculum Connection

You will find these icons listed in the resource guide next to the activities that indicate curricular connections. Teachers and parents are encouraged to adapt all of the activities included in an appropriate way for your students' age and abilities. *THE RAINBOW FISH* fulfills the following Ohio and National Education Standards and Benchmarks for Pre-K through Grade 3:



## Ohio's New Learning Standards for English Language

- Kindergarten**- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.K.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.K.9
- Grade 1**- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.9
- Grade 2**- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.6
- Grade 3**-CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3, CCSS., CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6

## Ohio's New Learning Standards for Science

- Kindergarten**- Life Science (Physical and Behavioral Traits of Living Things), Earth & Space Science (Daily and Seasonal Changes)
- Grade 1**- Life Science (Basic Needs of Living Things), Earth & Space Science (Sun, Energy, and Water)
- Grade 2**- Life Science (Interactions and Habitats), Earth & Space Science (The Atmosphere)
- Grade 3**- Life Science (Behavior, Growth and Changes), Earth & Space Science (Earth's Resources)

## National Core Arts Theatre Standards:

- Pre K**- TH:Cr11PK, TH:Pr4..PK, TH:Pr5.1PK, TH:Re.8.1.PK, TH:Cn10.1.PK.
- Kindergarten**- TH:Cr1.1.K, TH:Pr4.1.K, TH:Pr5.1.K, TH:Re8.1.K, TH:Cn10.1.K.
- Grade 1**- TH:Cr1.1.1, TH:Pr4.1.1, TH:Pr5.1.1, TH:Re7.1.1, TH:Re8.1.1, TH:Cn10.1.1.
- Grade 2**- TH:Cr1.1.2, TH:Pr4.1.2, TH:Pr5.1.2, TH:Re7.1.2, TH:Re8.1.2, TH:Cn10.1.2.
- Grade 3**- TH:Cr1.1.3, TH:Pr4.1.3, TH:Pr5.1.3, TH:Re7.1.3, TH:Re8.1.3, TH:Cn10.1.3

This resource guide was created by Amy Handra. All activities are available for distribution and use in the classroom or at home.

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## THE RAINBOW FISH

Of all of the fish in the deep blue sea, the Rainbow Fish is the most beautiful. She is the only one with lovely shiny scales, and she certainly knows it; she spends most of her time looking at herself in the mirror! But when she will not share her scales with the Green Fish and the Blue Fish, they do not want to be friends with her anymore. The Rainbow Fish is very confused. Remembering what her teacher told her, she decides to look for the Wise Old Octopus and ask for help. Along the way, she meets the other fish in the seas. She receives simple advice from the Octopus: share your gift with others, and you will find happiness. The Rainbow Fish eventually returns home and has to make a choice: Will she share her scales with her friends or will she keep them for herself?



## SPOTLIGHT ON MARCUS PFISTER

Marcus Pfister was born in Berne, Switzerland, and began his career as a graphic artist in an advertising agency. In 1983, he decided to dedicate more time to artistic pursuits, and began to write and illustrate his first book, *The Sleepy Owl*, which was published in 1986. His best-known work to date is *The Rainbow Fish*, which has remained on bestseller lists across the United States since 1992. Marcus does most of his illustrations for children's books in watercolors. He begins each book by stretching watercolor paper over a wooden board so that it won't warp when wet. He then copies his rough sketches onto the paper in pencil. At this point, he is ready to begin painting. When the illustration is complete he cuts the paper from the wooden board.

For books that feature holographic foil stamping, he then tapes a piece of transparent film over the art and indicates with a black marker where the foil stamping should be. The foil stamping is then applied during the production process after the pages are printed and before the final binding.

## Ohio Spotlight

Did you know that in Ohio you can sleep with the sharks? The Overnight Adventure Program at the Newport Aquarium in Cincinnati, Ohio allows groups to spend the night with some of the world's most exotic and interesting underwater creatures. You can explore hidden treasures of the Aquarium and visit with unique animals from around the world before camping out among amazing sea life. Newport Aquarium showcases thousands of animals from around the world in a million gallons of water, including the enormously popular "Sweet Pea" and "Scooter," the stars of the first shark ray breeding program in the world.

For more information on the Newport Aquarium visit <https://www.newportaquarium.com/>.



# Pre-Show Conversation Starters

SCIENCE

ENGLISH/  
LANGUAGE  
ARTS

All  
GRADES

*THE RAINBOW FISH* has many important lessons including the importance of sharing your gifts with others. If you haven't already, be sure to read *The Rainbow Fish* before attending the play adaptation at Victoria Theatre. This will help your students become familiar with the storyline.

## Use these discussion starters to spark a conversation:

1. Have you ever had something that someone else wanted? How did that feel? Did you share what you had? Why or why not?
2. Many sea creatures live in groups that need each other. Other sea creatures live alone. Do people live in groups or alone? Do we need each other? Does the Rainbowfish need other fish?
3. This story shows us that each person may make a personal choice that affects the whole community. What individual actions can we, as individuals, or as a family or class make for the common good?
4. The Rainbow Fish's shimmering scales made her feel special. What is a quality that you have that makes you feel special? What are ways in which you can share this special quality with others?



# Cultural Connections

SOCIAL  
STUDIES

SCIENCE

ENGLISH/  
LANGUAGE  
ARTS

All  
GRADES

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE WORD WALL

Originally written in Swedish, *THE RAINBOW FISH* has been translated into many different languages, including English, German, Spanish, French, and Chinese. Have your students choose a favorite image or word from the book, define it, and then translate it into another language. Your students should then illustrate this word. Once you have a classroom full of pictures, hang up this new illustrated "dictionary" on the wall.

## For an Extended Activity

ARTS

Have your students translate words into several different languages, connecting those words to other core subjects like Math and Science.





Image Courtesy of [www.tropical-fish-keeping.com](http://www.tropical-fish-keeping.com)

**Rainbowfish** are also called Blue Eyes or Rainbow Fish. The name Rainbowfish is derived from the fact that the color of their skin changes colors depending on how the light reflects off of it. Rainbowfish are **vertebrates** which means they have a backbone. A schooling fish, Rainbowfish prefer to be in groups of six or more fish of the same species. Rainbowfish live primarily in Australia and New Guinea, with a few close relatives in Indonesia and Madagascar.



Image courtesy of <http://a-z-animals.com>

**Starfish** aren't really fish. Starfish, like sea urchins and sand dollars, do not have backbones, which makes them part of a group called **invertebrates**. Most starfish sport spiny skin and five arms, although some can grow as many as 50 arms! The arms are covered with suckers that allow the animal to slowly creep along the ocean floor.



Image courtesy of [www.kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com)

**Octopus** are sea animals famous for their rounded bodies, bulging eyes, and eight long arms. They live in all the world's oceans but are especially abundant in warm, tropical waters. Most octopus stay along the ocean's floor, although some species are **pelagic**, which means they live near the water's surface. Octopus are solitary creatures that live alone in dens built from rocks. If threatened, octopuses shoot an inky fluid that darkens the water, confusing the aggressor. The octopus can also change to gray, brown, pink, blue, or green to blend in with its surroundings.



Image Courtesy of [www.geneticliteracyproject.org](http://www.geneticliteracyproject.org)

**Coral reefs** are a diverse underwater **ecosystem** generally found in clear, tropical oceans. Coral reefs form in waters from the surface to about 150 feet deep because they need sunlight to survive. The largest reef in the world, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia is longer than 1200 miles—that's the distance between Dayton and Denver, Colorado! Coral reefs only make up about 1% of the ocean floor, but they house nearly 25% of life in the ocean. Animals use coral reefs either as a stopping point as they travel the deep blue sea, or they live as residents at the reef. Coral can be a variety of colors, white, red, pink, green, blue, orange and purple, due to natural pigments and the **zooxanthellae** in their tissues.

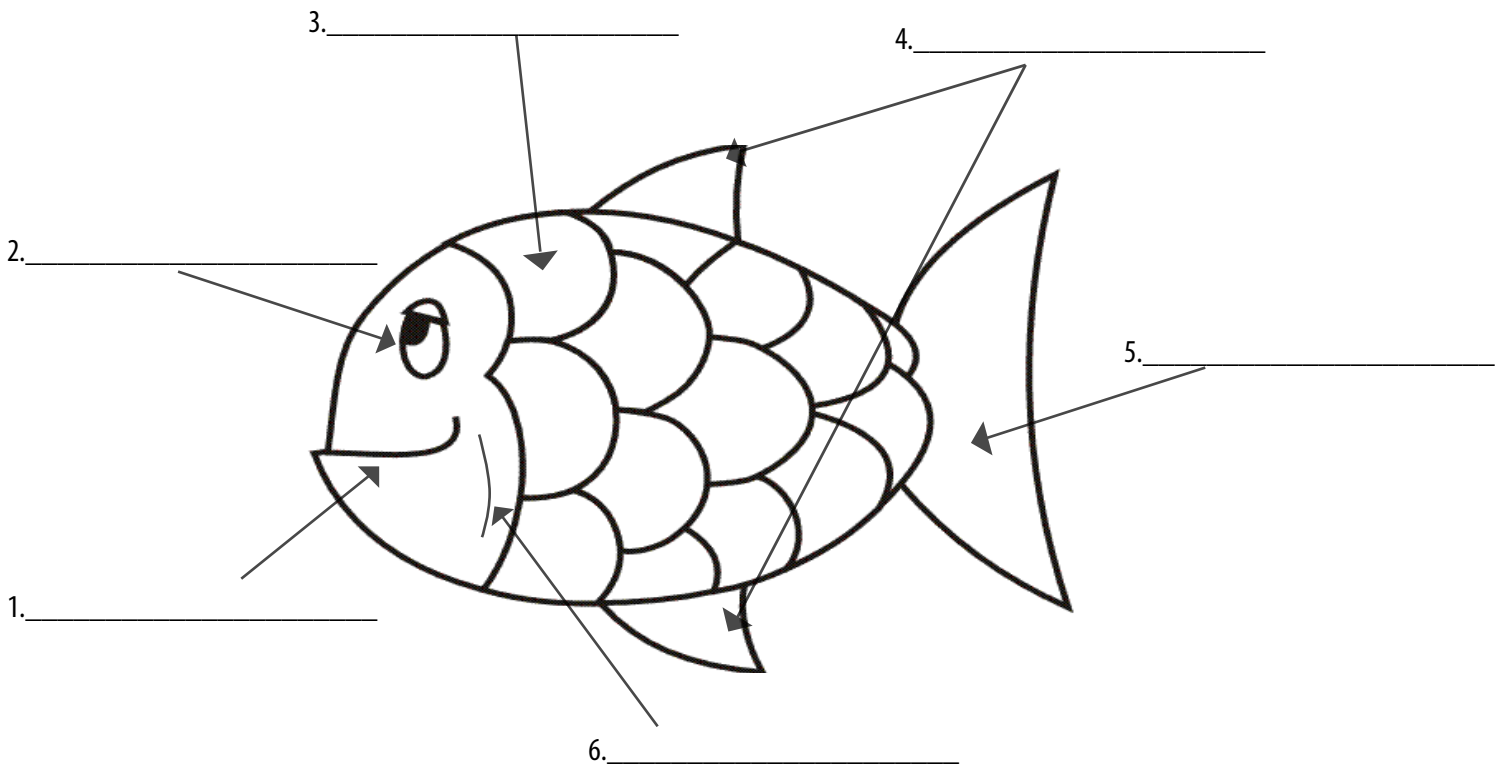
# Parts of the Rainbowfish

SCIENCE

All  
GRADES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Discuss the parts of the Rainbowfish and have students color and label each part.



1. The **Mouth** is used to eat prey.
2. The **Eyes** are used to see, but unlike human eyes, fish eyes are adapted to live in the water and see in very low light.
3. The **Scales** provide protection. Hard, sturdy, and slippery scales prevent damage from sharp objects like coral, and they protect the fish from predators' sharp teeth.
4. The **Fins** help the fish swim. Fins are located in different places on the fish and serve different purposes such as moving forward, turning, keeping an upright position or stopping.
5. The **Tail** is also called the **Caudal Fin** and is the main source of movement for most fish. It's like the motor on a boat. It helps the fish move efficiently through the water.
6. The **Gills** are what a fish use to breathe. They are like our lungs; they take oxygen from the water and excrete carbon dioxide into the water.

# Animal Habitat for Younger Students

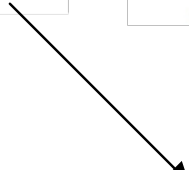
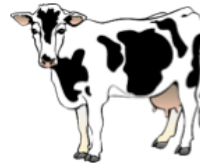


The Rainbow Fish lives in the ocean, but different animals live in different types of homes.

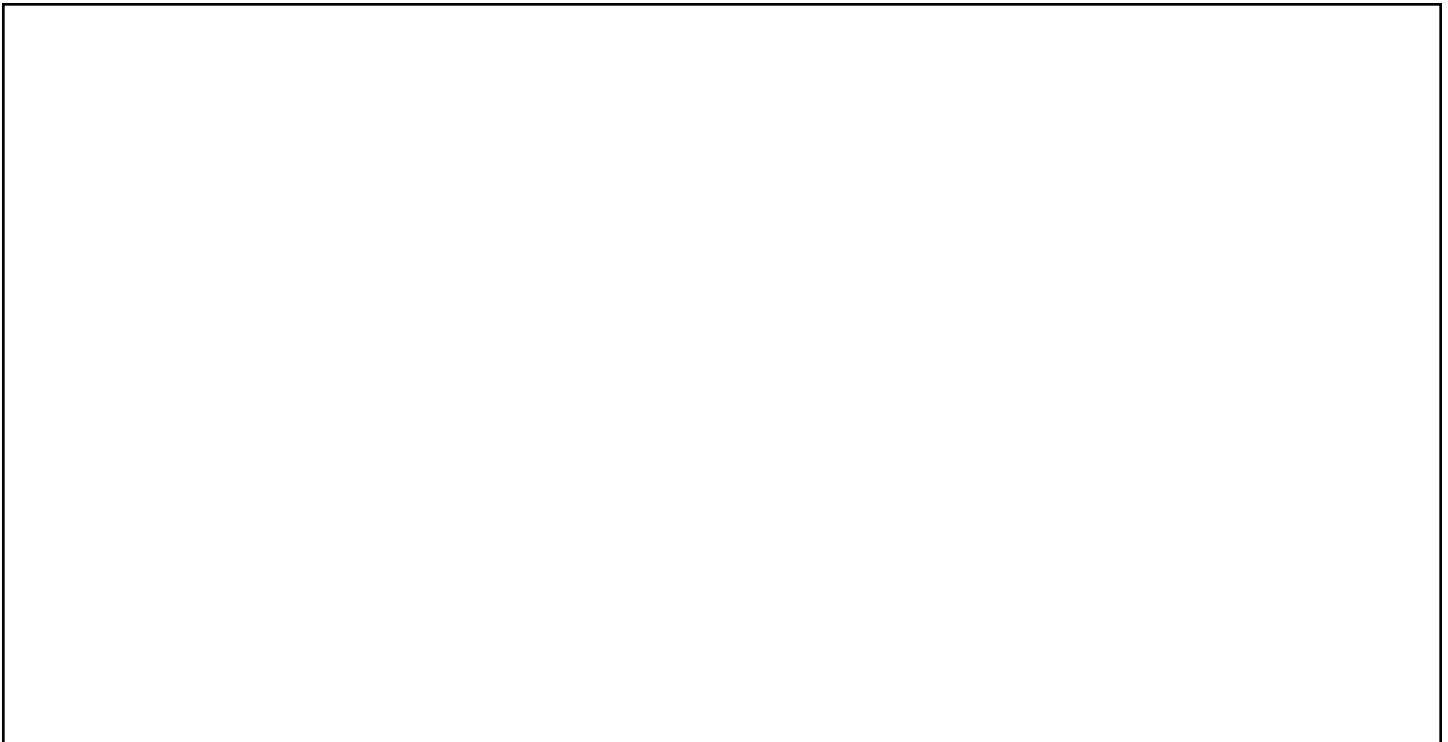
**Directions: Match each animal with its correct home.**



## WHO LIVES WHERE?



**Directions: Now, it's your turn! Draw a picture of yourself and where you live in the box below.**



A **habitat** is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism. There are many different types of **habitats** in the world and different types of animals live in each **habitat**.



The **Savanna** is a rolling grassland with scattered shrubs and isolated trees. The **Savanna** is in a hot climate where there are two seasons—rainy season and dry season. Because there are few trees or places to hide in the **Savanna**, speed is important for both predators and prey.



The **Temperate Deciduous Forest** is a rich, abundant habitat full of trees and shrubs and all kinds of animals. The **Forest** is in a climate that has four seasons—fall, winter, spring, and summer. Animals in these **forests** have to adapt to the changing seasons. To adapt to the changing climate, some animals hibernate or migrate and those who don't must have special adaptations to deal with higher exposure to predators in the winter.



The **Tropical Rain Forest** is lush and warm all year long. The environment is wet in tropical rainforests, maintaining a high humidity with a lot of rainfall year-round. **Tropical rainforests** are home to half of the plant and animal species on Earth. Animals in the **tropical rainforest** have adapted to live in this unique environment. A common characteristic is an adaptation to living in trees. The canopy protects them from predators and supplies all the food they need.



The **Desert** is extremely dry and gets very little rain. **Desert** climates can be either hot or cold. Because of the harsh conditions, few animals and plants are adapted to the extremely dry **desert** life. Many animals that live in the hot **desert** are cold-blooded, like snakes, insects, and lizards. Mammals that live in the **desert** are usually small because there are few places to hide from predators.



The **Marine** or **Ocean** habitat is the biggest biome in the world! It covers about 70% of the earth and includes five main oceans as well as many smaller Gulfs and Bays. Marine regions are usually very salty! The constant motion of the ocean results in currents and waves that may either be warm or cold depending on the weather and temperature of that area. Many marine animals have special adaptations to handle this difficult salty and cold environment.



# Animal Habitat Activity for Older Students






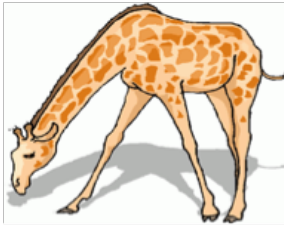









ARTS

SCIENCE

ENGLISH/  
LANGUAGE  
ARTS

GRADES  
**2-3**

**Directions:** Have students cut out each of the pieces below. Then, pass out a piece of construction paper and have students match and glue the correct animals with the correct habitat. Last, have students write a few facts about each habitat and its animal inhabitants.

# Create Your Own Rainbow Fish

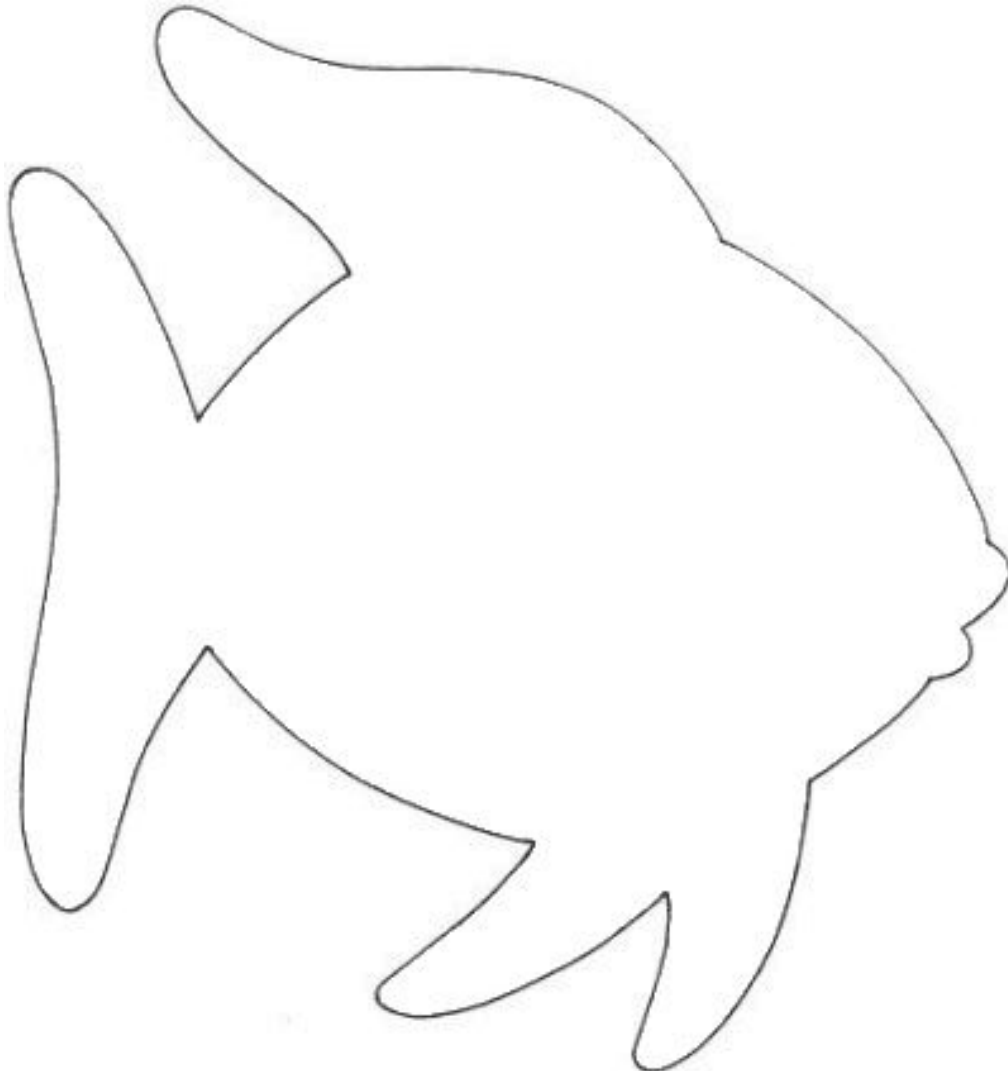


## You will need:

- Cardstock or Construction Paper
- Crayons, markers, watercolors, or colored pencils
- Cut celery stalks
- Glue
- Paint
- Glitter or sequins
- Popsicle sticks

## To make your Rainbow Fish:

1. Trace the template onto cardstock or construction paper and cut out.
2. If using card stock, color both sides of your Rainbow Fish using markers, paint, crayons, or watercolors. Draw on and decorate the eyes.
3. Dip the end of the celery stalk in paint and use it to make your Rainbow Fish's scales.
4. Once dry, take the glue and trace over the scales, adding glitter or sequins to make your scales shiny. You can add as many or as few as you would like.
5. When the Rainbow Fish is dry, attach it to a popsicle stick to make a puppet!



# Make a Friendship Bracelet

ENGLISH/  
LANGUAGE  
ARTS

ARTS

All  
GRADES

Friendship is an important theme in THE RAINBOW FISH. In this activity, students will have the opportunity to make a friendship bracelet for one of their friends.

## You will need:

- Colorful straws cut into small pieces
- Pipe cleaners
- Paper (construction, cardstock, or printing paper)
- Coloring supplies (markers, crayons, or colored pencils)

## To make your Friendship Bracelet:

1. Pass out a pipe cleaner to each student.
2. Have students pick pieces of cut straw that they would like to use to make their friendship bracelet.
3. Have students place the pieces on the string.  
**Extension:** Discuss the different colors and how to create patterns with color.
4. Show students how to wrap the two ends of the pipe cleaner together to fasten the bracelet. Be sure to leave a little extra in case the bracelet needs to be resized to fit their friend's wrist. Make sure students wrapped the ends carefully, leaving no sharp edges.
5. Have students make and decorate a card for their friend using paper and coloring materials.

**Extension:** Have older students write a thank you message for their friend in the card.

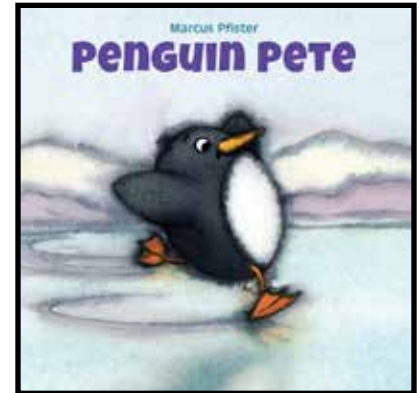


# Resources for Students & Teachers



## Publications for Students—Additional Books by Marcus Pfister:

- Dazzle the Dinosaur* (1994)
- Good Night, Little Rainbow Fish!* (2012)
- Milo and the Magical Stones* (1997)
- Penguin Pete* (1987)
- Rainbow Fish and the Big Blue Whale* (1998)
- Rainbow Fish to the Rescue!* (1992)
- The Sleepy Owl* (1986)



## Publications for Teachers and Parents:

*Organic Creativity in the Classroom: Teaching to Intuition in Academics and the Arts*, Written by Jane Piirto. Prufrock Press: 2013.

*Theatre for Change: Education, Social Action, and Therapy*, Written by Robert Landy and David T. Montgomery. Palgrave Macmillan: 2012.

*Play: How it Shapes the Brain and Invigorates the Soul*, Written by Stuart Brown and Christopher Vaughn. Harvard University Press: 2009.

## Websites for Teachers and Students:

<http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com>; Play games, watch videos, learn about animals and places, and get fun facts.

<http://kids.nceas.ucsb.edu/>; A great resources for teaching and learning about the animals and plants that live in different ecosystems or biomes of the world.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/>; Visit this website for art and craft ideas you can do at home! Featuring everything from holiday cards to origami, dinosaurs to jewelry making—this website has an activity to tap into every child's creative side.

## Victoria Fuse's Local Resource Discovery



You don't have to leave Dayton to explore different animal habitats—just visit the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery! First, visit the Sonoran Desert, where children experience what it's like to run their fingers through desert

soil, study desert animals, and discover the differences between daytime and nighttime desert environments. Then, step up into the Tidal Pool exhibit and peer into a little piece of the ocean. Tucked into the rocky display are live sea stars, sea anemones, sea cucumbers, and gumbfoot chitons. A knowledgeable Museum staff member from the Live Animals department will guide and instruct you through your experience, offering facts and information about marine life.

For more information, please visit [www.boonshoftmuseum.org](http://www.boonshoftmuseum.org).



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# Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

Founded in 1972, **Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's** focus is twofold. On the one hand Mermaid's energetic professional touring theatre for family audiences has won international claim for original productions with a strong emphasis on puppetry. At the other end of the spectrum, Mermaid's outspoken Youtheatre program is intensely local, as are the Institute of Puppetry Arts and Mermaid Theatre Loft Programs. Mermaid Theatre is committed to the expansion of its local and regional audiences as well as to maintaining its network of national and international presenters. Mermaid's choice of material is based on the belief that young people can benefit substantially, both in their emotional and aesthetic development, from early exposure to literature, the arts, and the power of imagination. Mermaid is best known for its unusual mix of striking visual images, evocative original music, scripts whose language is moderately demanding, and puppets and staging which draw young spectators into a world of fantasy and wonder. The company's creative ambition is to produce work which is good theatre - entertaining, informative and stimulating to all the senses. As important is the goal of encouraging literacy and generating enthusiasm for the art of reading. [www.mermaidtheatre.ns.ca](http://www.mermaidtheatre.ns.ca)

# DON'T FORGET

All schools that receive scholarships for a show and/or transportation are asked and encouraged to create thank-you letters or cards for our sponsors. Please address your students' thank-you notes to:

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