

Starfish

by Edith Thacher Hurd

A delightful book with cut paper collage illustrations introducing and explaining all about starfish.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Has anyone ever seen a starfish?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why two of the rays on that starfish are shorter?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Starfish*

- rays: the arms of starfish
- glide: move smoothly
- brittle: hard and breakable
- mussels: a mollusk with a blue-black shell that lives in the sea
- oysters: a shellfish with a rough shaped shell in two parts
- tide: the rise and fall of the ocean

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What is the biggest starfish?
- What are the arms of a starfish called?
- Do starfish have legs? Do they have feet? What are their feet called?
- Do starfish move fast or slow?
- Does a starfish have eyes, ears, or a nose?
- Where is the mouth on a starfish?
- In what season do starfish lay their eggs? Where do they lay their eggs?
- What do starfish hunt for when they are hungry?
- What part of the year does starfish lay their eggs? Where do they lay their eggs?

Do

Starfish Designs

Starfish come in many different shapes and sizes. Make different starfish shapes on paper and decorate them using different color crayons or markers. If you make several starfish, you can glue them to a large sheet of paper to make a collage of your own sea of starfish.

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