Principle 5: Grades K-2
November 2008

The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems

A.1. Most living things on Earth live in the ocean.

A.2. Most living space on Earth is in the ocean.

B.1. There is a great diversity of habitats in the ocean.

B.2. There are ocean habitats on the coast, far offshore, on rocky, sandy, & muddy shores, in the deep ocean, & at the surface.

B.3. Organisms living in diverse ocean habitats have diverse & unusual adaptations, for example, to: find and capture prey, escape predators, live where there is no light, etc.

C.1. There are many different kinds of organisms in the ocean.

C.2. The tiniest organisms, too small to see, & the largest organism, blue whales, all live in the ocean.

C.3. Many major groups of organisms only exist in the ocean. Examples of these groups include: sea stars, corals, clams, sharks.

C.4. More kinds of organisms are found in the ocean than on land.

C.5. Ocean organisms exhibit an amazing variety of different characteristics, such as: senses, shapes, sizes, life cycles, that help them to survive in ocean. Some organisms have gills to breathe; streamlined bodies & fins to swim & catch food; others have hard shells that provide protection from waves & predators.

See Principle 1