



# Human-Coastal Connections



From the *Alaska Seas & Rivers Curriculum, Alaska Sea Grant*: <http://seagrants.uaf.edu/marine-ed/curriculum/>.

## **Objectives:**

Students will understand how humans are connected to the ocean and other living things. They will appreciate their own connections to the ocean.

## **Concept:**

Marine resources are an important part of Alaska's history, culture, and economy. In this simple activity, students have a chance to reflect on their own connections to the ocean.

## **Materials:**

- ⊙ Science notebooks
- ⊙ Pencils

## **Preparation:**

Draw a concept web graphic organizer on the board. An example is included on the next page.

## **Introduction:**

Share with the class a story about your own personal connection to the ocean – maybe fishing, kayaking, or other marine pursuits and industries.

## **Activities & Procedures:**

Ask students to replicate the concept web graphic organizer in their science notebooks and fill it in with their personal and community connections to the ocean.

They should put their own names at the center of the web, and also include connections between other parts of the web. (i.e., they are connected to their uncle, the fisherman; and to their aunt, the marine biologist, and those two are connected to each other. Or, they eat salmon, they have an uncle and the uncle fishes for salmon, they love to watch eagles and eagles eat salmon.) Help students focus on finding significant connections, rather than simply listing as many as they can.

## **Wrap-up:**

Have students respond to one of the following prompts in their science notebooks:

1. How and why the ocean is important to me,  
OR
2. How would my life change if I had no connections to the ocean?

Lead a class discussion based on their responses to the prompts.

## **Extensions & Lesson Connections:**

Have each student write a thank you note to the ocean for all it provides to him or her and the community.

This lesson works well in conjunction with the "Fishing for the Future" and "The Legend and Science of the Bidarki" lessons.

## **Evaluation:**

Assess student understanding of ocean connections through their completed graphic organizers and response to the wrap-up prompt.



# Example Concept Web Graphic Organizer

## Connections Web

