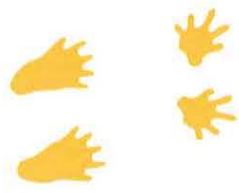




Meeting 17 Sponge Art

Here are three fun activities that encourage Eager Beavers to play and explore with sponges. Adapt the activities to meet the needs of your Eager Beavers or create your own activities.





MEETING LENGTH

60-80 MINUTES

- Opening (5 minutes)
- Story Time (10 minutes)
- Activities (40-60 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

Opening

Using a beaver puppet, greet each of the children by name and welcome them all to Eager Beavers. Have the children sit in a circle.

5

MINUTES



Listen to a story about ocean life.

CHIP COMPLETED

SPONGE ART



Story Time

SEA SPONGES

10

MINUTES

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Book about ocean life
- Sea sponge

Read a book about ocean life such as *National Geographic Kids Look and Learn: Ocean Creatures* (National Geographic Kids, 2015), *Moonlight Ocean* (Golding, 2012), *National Geographic Readers: Ocean Animals Collection* (National Geographic Kids, 2015) or a book of your choice. Then show the Eager Beavers a real sea sponge and explain that sponges live in the ocean. Next tell them they will be doing fun activities with sponges.





The following activities fulfill the requirements for the Sponge Art chip.

Sponge Greenhouse

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Soak the seeds overnight before giving them to the children. Create take-home instructions for the adults telling them to mist the seeds twice a day, place the carton in direct light, and let the children eat the sprouts on a sandwich or in a salad.

Tell the children that they are going to grow their own plants to eat. Have each child place a sponge in the bottom of a milk carton. Next, have each of the children sprinkle seeds onto their sponges. Then have each child mist the sponge and seeds with water.

5

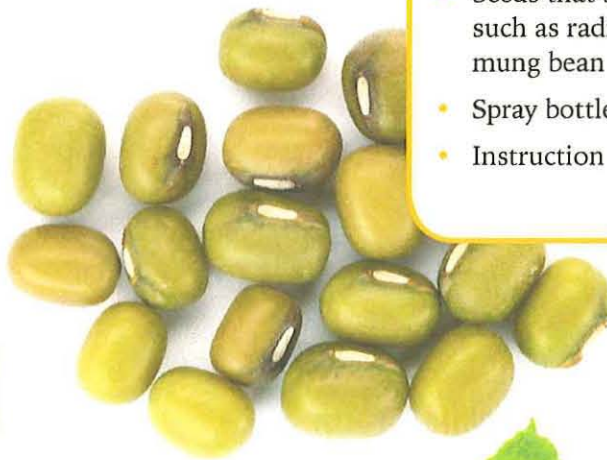
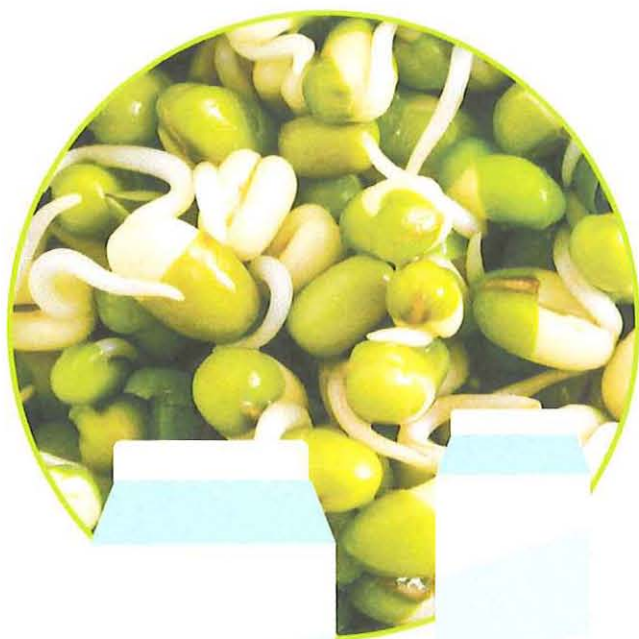
MINUTES

1

ACTIVITY

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 2-pint clean milk cartons with the tops cut off
- Sponges cut to fit into the bottom of the milk cartons
- Seeds that sprout such as radish or mung bean
- Spray bottles
- Instruction sheets





ACTIVITY

2

Sponge Art Placemat

15
MINUTES

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Poster board, 13 × 11 in (33 × 28 cm)
- Sponges cut into the shapes of fruits and vegetables
- Tempera or poster paint
- Dishes for paint
- Spray fixative or laminating sheets
- Newspaper
- Smocks

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Cut sponges into the shapes of fruits and vegetables. You might want to make one set for each color of paint. Cover the work area with newspaper.

Tell the children that beavers never need to be reminded to eat their vegetables but that sometimes boys and girls do. Then tell them that to help them remember, they are going to make their own placemats.

Give each child a piece of poster board. Place tempera or poster paint in dishes. Have the children dip the sponges into the paint and firmly press them onto their placemat. Repeat until the mat is covered with prints. Write the children's names on their mats and set aside to dry.

Once the placemats are dry, ask a couple of the parents to either spray the front and back of each mat with a fixative or put each placemat between laminating sheets.



Sponge Beavers

10
MINUTES

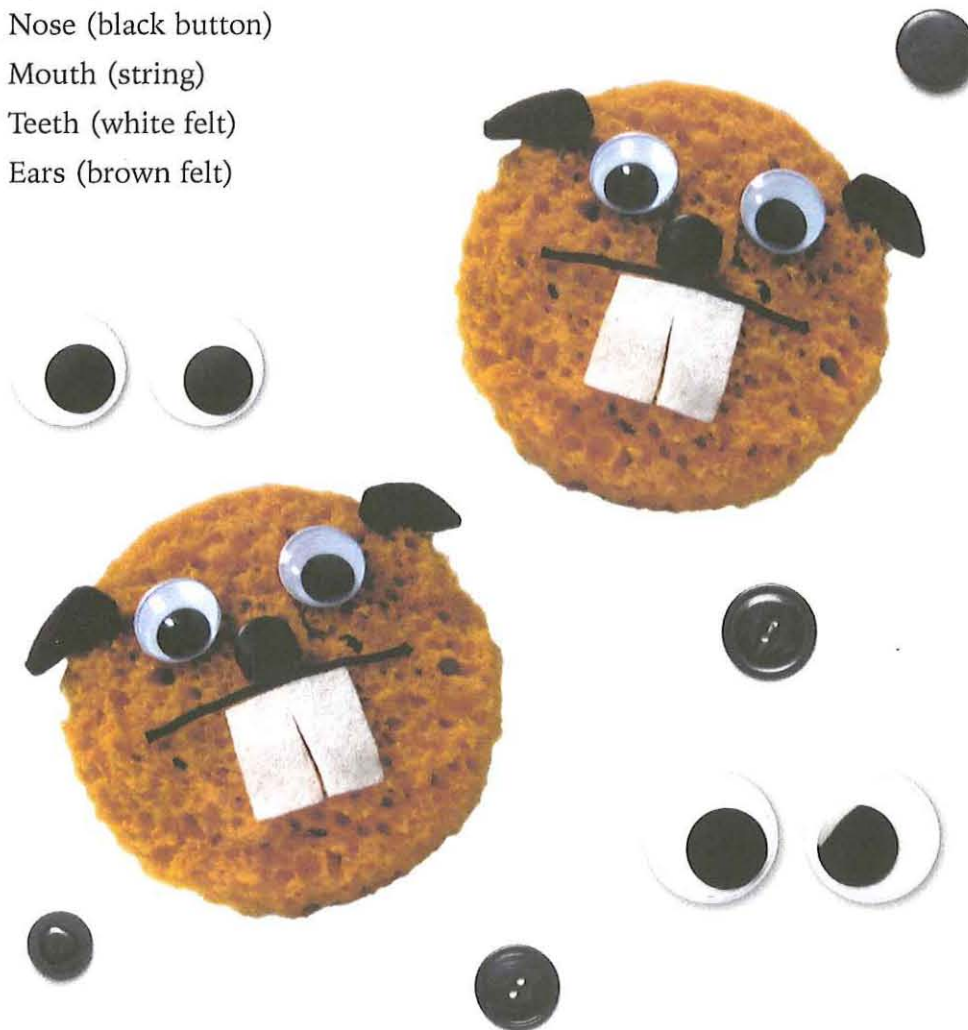
WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Cut whiskers from string and teeth and ears from felt.

Begin by showing the children a completed sponge beaver that you've made earlier. Point out the beaver's long front teeth. Remind the children that beavers' front teeth never stop growing and that they have to chew on sticks to keep them from getting too long. Ask the children if they are glad that they don't have teeth that keep growing.

Give each child a round sponge and have them glue on the following:

- Eyes (plastic eyes)
- Nose (black button)
- Mouth (string)
- Teeth (white felt)
- Ears (brown felt)



3 ACTIVITY

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Black buttons, one per child
- Round brown sponges, one per child
- Plastic eyes, two per child
- String, cut into 2 in (5 cm) pieces
- White felt, two rectangular pieces per child
- Brown felt, two rectangular pieces per child
- Craft glue
- Scissors



ACTIVITY

4

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Buckets
- Bowls
- Large sponges



Sponge Relay Race

15

MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

The object of this game is to get water into a bowl, so it's a good idea to play this outside.

Remind the children that not only do beavers eat plants, but they also drink water. And it is important that girls and boys drink water everyday. For the next game, they are going to help the beavers get enough water to drink.

Divide the children into several teams and have each team stand in a line.

At the front of each line have a large bucket and sponge. Place a bowl (don't use glass) several feet in front of each team. The child at the front of the line will dip the sponge into the bucket of water and run to the bowl. The child then squeezes the sponge over the bowl and runs back to the team, handing the sponge to the child next in line, who repeats the process. At the end of the game, see how much water each team got for the beaver.

You may want to have each of the children take two turns before ending the relay or repeat the relay a couple of times, depending on how many children are in your club.

Closing

5

MINUTES

Gather the children into a circle and ask

them a specific question about what they learned during Eager Beavers. Say a prayer and then ask for an Eager Beaver to volunteer to pray for the group. Rejoin the rest of the Adventurers for the closing program.



Chip: Sponge Art