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Oshima Town Tsubaki Elementary School

1. Program Title

Marine Conservation Project

2. Program Objectives

- To learn about the ocean around Oshima Island and to foster love for one's hometown
- To understand that protecting the marine environment is essential to preserving local specialty foods by visiting salt and "kusaya (salted-dried fish)" factories
- To enhance lifelong awareness and interest in preserving the environment through beach cleanup activities

3. Corresponding Subjects / Number of Classroom Hours

The 1st and 2nd graders: Life Environment Studies / 6 hours

The 3rd and 4th graders: Social Studies / 8 hours

The 5th and 6th graders: Integrated Studies / 6 hours

4. School Curriculum Design

- We chose to center activities around the ocean so that students can come in contact with nature on a daily basis.
- We encourage educational activities in which students can actively connect and involve themselves with the nature, society and people that surround them.
- We set different goals based on each child's developmental stage so that each student can learn about their relationship with nature, society and energy comprehensively over six years.

5. Program Overview



Beach Class (1st and 2nd Graders)

- We organized an outdoor lesson on the beach in the north of Oshima island. With the assistance of parents and guest teachers, students enjoyed marine life observation.
- Ahead of the class, we studied the names of marine animals that live on rocky shores and tide pools, where to find them, as well as dangerous marine life.
- On the day of class, we found and observed fish, shellfish, and sea cucumbers safely.
- By holding class by the ocean, students deepened their understanding towards the ocean, and learned about the rich abundance of species that live there.



Salt and "Kusaya" Factory Visits (3rd and 4th Graders)

- We visited a salt factory and learned how salt is produced. The salt is made with the seawater that surrounds Oshima Island. The salt is a local specialty and is distributed across Japan.
- At the "kusaya" (salted-dried fish) factory, we learned about their efforts to pursue the best taste. They told students that fresh local fish and their secret sauce passed down through generations are important in making the best tasting kusaya.
- We also had a chance to taste this local specialty. We learned about their efforts to protect the ocean and to make use of marine resources at the local center for agriculture, forests and fisheries.
- Students discovered that preserving the ocean also protects this local specialty, thus it is very important to preserve the marine environment.



Beach Cleanup Activity (5th and 6th Graders)

- We organized a beach cleanup activity along with town officers. Students found that there were people who clean up the beach after every summer. The activity made students more environmentally conscious and made them realize that they can help starting from the small things.
- Some students mentioned in their summer diaries that they picked up garbage when they went to the beach, and others commented that they were happy to see tourists enjoying the beach we cleaned. Students discovered that protecting the environment connects to protecting our lifestyle on Oshima Island.

6. Result

- Students learned about the rich abundance of species that live in the ocean.
- Students found that more marine creatures can survive in healthy and clean oceans.
- Students discovered that preserving the ocean also protects local specialties by learning about local specialties they eat daily such as salt and "kusaya."
- Students realized that through even small actions they too can play a role in marine conservation.
- Students became more familiar with the ocean through the classes held on the beach.