

Seahorse Hotel Classroom Design Project

Introduction

Creating a seahorse hotel can be a fun and educational project to teach children about seahorse habitats and the importance of conservation. Here are some steps you can follow to explain how to make a seahorse hotel to students:

- 1.** What to do: Visit SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium and watch with students the videos on the Seahorse Breeding project and Seahorse Hotel Project found here <https://www.visitsealife.com/sydney/whats-inside/seahorse-breeding-program/>
- 2.** Explain what a seahorse hotel is. A seahorse hotel is an artificial structure that provides a safe and comfortable place for seahorses to live and breed.
- 3.** Discuss the importance of seahorse conservation. Explain to the children that seahorses are delicate creatures that are threatened by habitat loss, overfishing, and pollution. By creating a seahorse hotel, we can help provide a safe and protected space for seahorses to thrive.
- 4.** Gather materials. To make a seahorse hotel, you will need some materials such as plastic pipe or tubing, mesh bags, zip ties, and natural materials like seagrass or shells. You can find these materials at a hardware store or online.
- 5.** Design the seahorse hotel. Encourage the children to get creative and come up with a design for their seahorse hotel. They can use the plastic pipe or tubing to create a structure with multiple levels or compartments, and the mesh bags to create small pockets where seahorses can rest.
- 6.** Assemble the seahorse hotel. Once the children have a design in mind, help them assemble the seahorse hotel using the zip ties to secure the plastic pipe or tubing together, and the mesh bags to create small pockets. They can also add natural materials like seagrass or shells to provide additional hiding places for the seahorses.
- 7.** Place the seahorse hotel in the ocean. Find a suitable location in shallow water, such as a seagrass bed or near a coral reef, and carefully place the seahorse hotel in the water. The children can observe the seahorse hotel over time to see if any seahorses take up residence.
- 8.** Discuss the importance of checking the seahorse hotel. Explain to the children that it's important to periodically check the seahorse hotel to make sure it's still in good condition and not causing any harm to the seahorse's natural habitat.

By creating a seahorse hotel, children can learn about seahorses and their habitats and make a positive impact on marine conservation. They can also have fun getting creative and designing a unique structure for the seahorses to live in.