



## GET READY TO DIVE IN WITH US AS WE EXPLORE LIFE UNDERWATER!

Water covers most of the Earth's surface. From oceans to rivers, to lakes and swamps, aquatic environments are diverse and so are the organisms that live within them. Whether it be the icy ocean water of the Arctic, a shallow pond in the forest or a fast-moving river, these areas all provide unique spaces for plants and animals to live. Some organisms make their homes on the seafloor, some float near the surface and others move and swim at different depths. In order to learn about how things live under water, people have invented different tools to help study them including underwater submersibles, scuba gear, sonar and waterproof cameras.

### WEEK 7: UNDERWATER ADVENTURES

#### DAY 1:

#### BUILD AN AQUASCOPE

Water and the things living in it can be difficult to study without special equipment. Scientists use special tools and boats to explore oceans, lakes and other bodies of water. While water covers the majority of planet Earth, many places under water have never been explored by humans before. But you don't need to dive deep down to the bottom of the ocean to explore somewhere new. Let's create a tool to help us discover life under water!

#### Before you start, you should have:

- A body of water where you can explore OR a bathtub, sink or bucket
- A plastic or thick cardboard container (an ice cream tub, butter container or oatmeal container will work)
- A piece of plastic wrap large enough to cover the bottom of the container
- Scissors or a box cutter
- Duct tape
- Optional: a journal or paper
- Optional: pencil, pen or crayons



Sam Noble Home



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## Get started:

1. To build an aquascope:

- o Remove the lid of the plastic container
- o With the help of an adult, use scissors or a box cutter to cut the bottom out of the container.
- o Using the plastic wrap, wrap it over the open bottom of the container to completely cover it. Try to keep the plastic as smooth as possible.
- o Use duct tape to tape the plastic wrap in place (make sure to use plenty of tape to help make the aquascope as waterproof as possible).

2. Explore in a deep puddle, creek, pond, beach or other body of water (make sure to have an adult with you).

- Place the plastic-covered end of the aquascope in the water.

Look through it to see what you can find!

- Think:
- What did you find underwater?
- How was the area you explored under water different than the areas on land?

OR

- Fill a bathtub, sink or bucket up with at least six inches of water.
- Find five different objects from around your home to place in the water. You can use a toy, food or anything else you want to explore under water.

- Place the objects in the water.
- Place the aquascope in the water and see what you can find!
- Think:
- What did the objects look like under water?
- Did the water cause any of them to change (did they shrink, grow bigger or even fall apart)?

3. Tell someone what you discovered:

- o How did the aquascope help you explore under water?
- o What did you find under water?
- o How did life underwater look different than life on land?
- o How did the objects look different under water than before?

## Keep exploring!

- Use craft supplies to recreate the scenes you observed underwater.
- Go exploring at different times of the day (in the morning, afternoon or evening) and see if you notice different things.

## More information about underwater exploration and aquatic life in Oklahoma:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDZ39JJsSp0>



<https://www.okaquarium.org/168/Aquatic-Oklahoma>

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## What did you find?

Upload a photo or video and tag the Sam Noble Museum on Instagram or Facebook. You can also use the hashtags **#samnoblehome** and **#summerexplorers** to share!



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