

## CLASSROOM VISITS

---

Ocean Connectors focuses on a different “case study” animal in each grade; sea turtles (grade four), whales (grade five), and birds (grade six). Instructors visit classrooms twice per year to deliver an interactive presentation using marine life phenomena, videos, conservation-themed prizes, and models. Instructors use the classroom computer and internet to access [Prezi](#). Presentations engage students in inquiry-based learning to leave a lasting impact.

- Presentations are scheduled at the start of the school year (August to September) and at the end of the school year (April to May).
- Prior to the first presentation, students complete the online “pre” survey to assess initial knowledge of marine science. Following the second classroom visit, students complete the online “post” survey and the teacher submits an anonymous Program Evaluation Form to provide feedback.
- Students in the fourth grade are given waterproof journals to take notes. Students in grades five and six receive their journals from the previous year (retained by Ocean Connectors over the summer). Students are not permitted to take their journals home until the end of sixth grade.
- Classroom presentations support Next Generation Science Standards in Earth’s Systems.

---

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

---

After the presentations, Ocean Connectors students communicate with students in Nayarit, Mexico about the migratory marine life we share across the Pacific Ocean. A “knowledge exchange” consists of scientific communications between students in the U.S. and Mexico using artwork, letters, and videos as a medium to share information about migratory marine life. Students communicate in English and Spanish to build dual language skills. This binational dialog fosters stewardship and builds core academic skills in both groups.

- The knowledge exchange contributes to academic objectives by allowing children to practice reading, writing, technical, and dual language skills. This activity supports California Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards in Earth’s Systems and Life Science.

---

## FIELD TRIP

---

Coastal field trips expose students to diverse aspects of the local environment and bring about experiential learning opportunities. Students are led by Ocean Connectors instructors on unique learning adventures that place them in direct contact with marine life. Field trips enable students to effectively use program content knowledge and scientific skills, and help them become equipped to transfer their learning to the real-world. Students think and act like scientists by employing critical thinking skills and practicing observation, identification, and reflection. This exposure expands knowledge of broader aspects of science and enhances the ability of students to draw analogies from their experiences.

- Fourth grade students view green sea turtles firsthand during field trips to the Living Coast Discovery Center in Chula Vista, and explore the wildlife and habitats found at the Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge.
- Fifth grade students attend whale watching excursions off the coast of San Diego with Flagship Cruises & Events, where they interact with experts from Birch Aquarium at Scripps.
- Sixth grade students attend habitat restoration outings at the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, with mentorship from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service park rangers. Students participate in planting, weeding, and litter abatement to build a sense of ownership of their natural environment.
- Field trips support Next Generation Science Standards in Earth’s Systems.