

LINK YOUR LEARNING TO A THEME – THE SEA

A theme is a concept, story or unifying idea around which a course is constructed. If you have attended our Plan and Design or Develop Learning Material workshops you will have learnt how much fun it is to link a workshop topic to a theme. In this week's tip we look at a theme that is certainly relevant at this time of the year – the sea. Here are some ways in which you can pull a sea theme through into your learning material.

- Link the workshop topic to the sea – eg a selling skills programme could be subtitled Fishing for new prospects
- Add sea motifs to your flipcharts. For example, write your instructions for an introductory activity on a flipchart bordered with different coloured fish. Decorate a ground rules flipchart with an anchor, a reflection time flipchart with a pair of sunglasses, a beach umbrella or a deckchair!
- Cut out seaside shapes in paper for post-it exercises. Starfish, boats or shells are all easy shapes to draw and cut out. Or create index card sized post-its and preprint them with a sea symbol
- Find a large bucket or basket, label it **Great Ideas** and place cards cut out into fish shapes next to it. Encourage your learners to write their ideas on the fish and to pop them into the bucket. At the end of the day, go fishing – dip into the bucket and draw out a great idea to share and review with the learners.
- Find quotations that link to your course material – and that have a sea theme.

A rising tide raises all shipping. John Kennedy

We live on an island surrounded by sea of ignorance. As our island of knowledge grows, so does the shore of our ignorance. John Wheeler, physicist

To reach a port we must set sail –

Sail, not tie at anchor

Sail, not drift.— Franklin D. Roosevelt

- Place a few shells at each place for your learners to touch and play with.
- Consider planning meals, table settings etc around a sea theme as well.

The applications are endless – just challenge your imagination.

Karen Gray

karen.gray@gray-matters.com

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