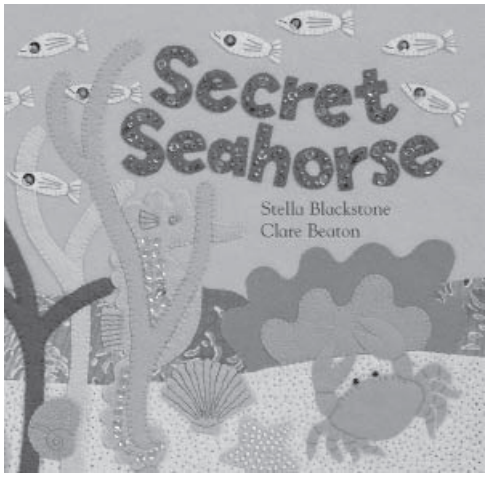
Art Under the Water

A Barefoot Activity

For kids ages 4 - 7

Make an underwater scene like the ones in *Secret Seahorse*. You'll learn how to use materials with different textures to represent the many items in the ocean!



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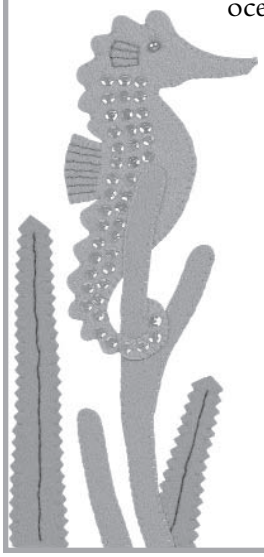
Let's Begin

- Read *Secret Seahorse* to the children. Look closely at the pictures and discuss how Clare Beaton uses fabric and beads to create the pictures. Ask the children to discuss what materials they would use to create an underwater scene. What would they include? What effects could they create with different materials? Discuss what they would find in the ocean, and brainstorm with them what materials would work best to create sand, coral, seaweed, fish and other sea creatures.
- Give each child a large piece of blue poster board. This will be the underwater background to build on. Ask the children to create their own underwater scene from the provided materials. Tell them that they can get creative by including interesting features like shipwrecks or treasure chests.
- The children should think carefully about what effects different materials can have. You may want to suggest some options to get them thinking, like using foil for fish scales, colored cellophane for seaweed or blue patterned fabric to represent ocean currents. You may also want to walk around to help the children pick different materials for their scenes.
- Once everyone is finished, find a place to display all the beautiful underwater scenes inspired by *Secret Seahorse*.

Materials

- ❑ Large sheets of blue poster board
- ❑ Felt
- ❑ Crepe & tissue paper
- ❑ Sequins, buttons & beads
- ❑ Fabric scraps
- ❑ Glue
- ❑ Scissors



Illustrations from *Secret Seahorse* © Barefoot Books