

## Summer at the Library 2022

# MAKE WAVES



### Middle School and Up

# Be a Habitat Hero!

What happens when humans start building into the ocean where so many sea creatures already live?

### What will you learn?

- Building into the ocean can be harmful to the creatures that live in it
- What marine habitat loss is and how it affects sea creatures.
- How this has played out in New York City

### Materials:

- Miniature sea creatures
- Aluminum pan
- Modeling clay
- Water
- Ruler
- Optional: food coloring
- Optional: pen and paper

### Instructions:

- First start by filling your aluminum pan about halfway with water. You can add food coloring to the water to make it stand out more. Then you're going to add a handful of your sea creatures to the pan.
- Now it's time to add in some of your clay. This will represent land as the human habitat.
- Add some places to your little island. Maybe a store, restaurant or a library. Anything you want to add you can. Make sure you add nature too (a park, some trees). Feel free to add outwards and upwards of your land.
- As you continue to build out and upwards of your island, take your ruler and measure how much the water the animals have left.



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- Continue on for as long as you want repeating the two steps above.
- You can use a paper and pencil to take notes and record the amount of water the animals have.

## Reflection Questions:

- Is there a difference between starting out with good intentions and having a bad outcome, or having ambivalent intentions from the start?
- Why do you think there is a lack of understanding or care about how much space animals need to live in?
- What do you think can be done (large or small scale) to ensure that animals have a large enough habitat?

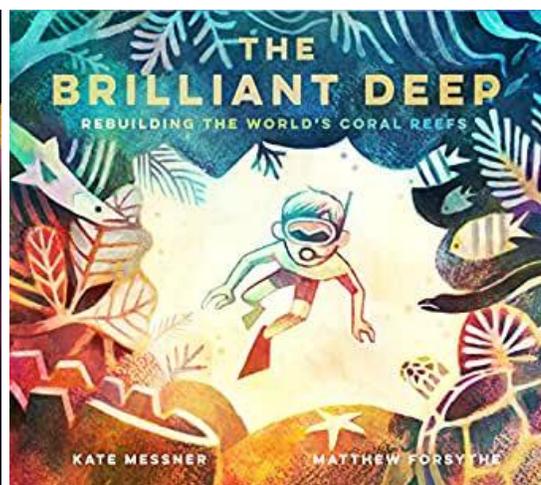
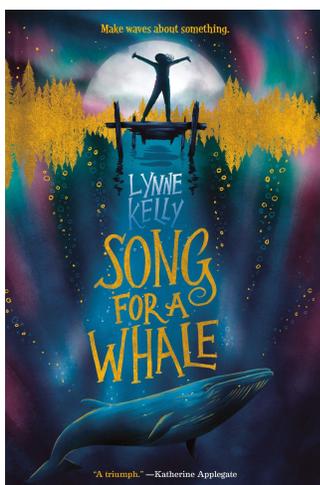
## Explanation:

This activity is based on the creation of Little Island at Pier 55 in Manhattan. This attraction opened in 2021, and caused quite a controversy. As you saw in the activity, as we built outwards, whether it was a movie theater or a hospital, the sea creatures slowly began to lose space in their own habitat. This means the animals have a smaller place to swim, find food, mate and to escape their own predators. All of this will lead to loss of marine life!

The loss of marine life has had, and will continue to have, a profound effect on humanity. A loss of biodiversity in marine ecosystems leads to overall destabilization and an inability to regulate disturbances.

## More to Explore at the Library:

Take a cue from these other habitat heroes and dive into an awe-inspiring book!



Guide by Sarah West.



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