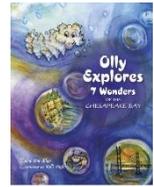


# Olly Explores 7 Wonders of the Chesapeake Bay

## Lesson Plans and Crafts



- **Activity and Discussion:** In the story, Olly travels around the bay looking for remarkable things. Ask students if they can think of any special things or places in their community that make it special. Have students take a picture, or cut out a picture, of something in their community or neighborhood that makes it special or unique. Post the photos on a bulletin board in the classroom. Title the bulletin board “The Wonders of our Community”. You can also use the name of your town or other name that fits. You can take it further and have the class vote on the top seven “wonders” of their community.
- **Facts for each Wonder in the book:** (These facts and more can be found at the back of *Olly Explores 7 Wonders of the Chesapeake Bay!*)
  - Skipjacks: Skipjacks were made by oystermen over 100 years ago specifically to dredge for oysters. They were named after the skipjack fish because they are quick and agile in the water. There are very few skipjacks left today.
  - Great Blue Heron: This is the biggest wading bird on the bay. It is over 4 feet tall and its wings stretch to over 6 feet! They have become a symbol of the Chesapeake Bay.
  - Cape Henry Lighthouses: The original Cape Henry lighthouse is made out of bricks. The old lighthouse has historical significance because it was the first lighthouse built by our new government after the Revolutionary war (1792). A new lighthouse was built in 1882 when the older one developed cracks and became unsafe. The new lighthouse is the tallest cast-iron lighthouse in the U.S.
  - Chesapeake Bay Bridge: The real name of the Bay Bridge is the William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Bay Bridge. Each side of the bridge is more than 4 miles long and 379 feet high. That’s taller than the Statue of Liberty!
  - Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel: The official name for the Bridge Tunnel is the Lucius J. Kellam, Jr. Bridge-Tunnel. It is more than 20 miles from end to end! When it opened in 1964 it was considered one of the seven engineering wonders of the modern world.
  - Calvert Cliffs: The Calvert Cliffs were formed over 15 million years ago! At that time, part of Maryland was covered by a shallow sea. When the sea eventually pulled away, more than 600 species of fossils were left behind!

- o Choptank River Pier: This pier near Cambridge, Maryland is one of the most historic and popular piers on the bay. Once a draw-bridge, it was opened and dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935.



**Make oysters.** Have students make their own oysters with this easy craft:

Materials needed: 1 coffee filter, white or tan; 2 wiggle eyes (any color); 1 Pom, (any color) size ½ inch or less; Scotch tape, Glue

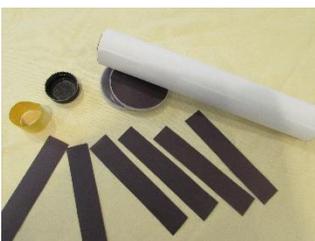
Directions: Fold the coffee filter in half; then fold in half again. Tape down the side with Scotch tape. Glue wiggle eyes on one side, close to the edge. Glue a Pom on the inside for the pearl. You can use white for the pearl, but I find that kids love to pick out fun bright colors as well.

**Make a Great Blue Heron stick puppet:** Print out the coloring page for the Great Blue Heron from [OllytheOyster.com/kidspage](http://OllytheOyster.com/kidspage). Have students color the heron blue or gray and cut out the image. Glue or tape the image to a craft stick. Optional: add a blue feather (you can buy feathers in packs at the craft store or on Amazon.com).



**Make the Cape Henry Lighthouses:** Materials needed: 2 Paper towel tubes; 2 Bottle caps 1 1/2" - (I used black and white, but any color will do); 4 Plastic lids 3" (these were from Pringles cans); Construction paper-black, white, red, yellow; Pencil or gray marker; Tape; Glue

*Brick lighthouse:* Wrap the red paper around a paper tube and tape it down. Using a pencil or a gray marker, draw horizontal lines about an inch apart all the way down the tube, then go back and draw the vertical lines to form the bricks. Alternatively, you can draw the lines before you wrap the paper around the tube. Then using the red paper again, trace around two plastic lids and cut out the circles. Glue the circles to the inside of each lid. Next, use the yellow paper to cut out a piece about 5 inches by 1 inch. Wrap it in a circle and fit one end into the bottle cap. Then tape the ends together once you see what size the circle needs to be. Finally, assemble your pieces together to form the lighthouse and glue or tape in place.



*Cast-iron lighthouse:* Use the white paper as the base for the new lighthouse. You will need 3 stripes for the top and 3 stripes for the bottom—each stripe should be 1 inch wide by 5 1/2 inches long. Glue the stripes in an alternating pattern. The top half of the lighthouse has the opposite pattern to the bottom half. Then using the black paper again, trace around each plastic lid and cut out the circles. Glue the circles to the inside of each lid. Next, use the yellow paper to cut out a

piece about 5 inches by 1 inch. Wrap it in a circle and fit one end into the bottle cap. Then tape the ends together once you see what size the circle needs to be. Finally, assemble your pieces together to form the lighthouse and glue or tape in place.



**Make a Skipjack:** Materials needed: 1 Paper towel tube; 2 Sheets of typing paper; 1 length of yarn or string, 26 inches long; Crayons or coloring pencils; Tape; Scissors

Directions: *The boat:* Take one piece of paper and cut in half lengthwise, then fold lengthwise each half piece. Place them alongside each other and tape the ends together to form the boat. You can cut the corners at an angle as seen in the photo. If desired, you can find a template for the boat and sails on my blog at [ElaineAnnAllen.com/maryland-skipjack-craft](http://ElaineAnnAllen.com/maryland-skipjack-craft).

Students can color or paint the boat at this point before it is assembled. They can be creative in decorating the boat and give it a name as well.

Place the paper towel tube in the middle of the pieces and tape in place. The boat, with the paper tube in the middle, should be able to stand upright.

*The sails:* Next, cut out two triangles from the second piece of paper. Or, cut out the two triangles from the second page of the template from my blog. Tape the triangles to the paper tube as seen in the picture. Finally, take the string or yarn and drape it from one end of the boat, across the top of the tube, and over to the other end of the boat. Tape in place.



**Make blue crabs:** Materials needed: Wiggle eyes, any size; Blue paper plates, dessert size; Blue pipe cleaners; Glue; Scissors, Hole punch.

Directions: Punch four holes on each side of a blue paper plate. Then cut pipe cleaners into five inch lengths—they don't have to be perfect in size. Wrap the ends of the pipe cleaners into the holes around the plate and curve them upward. For the pincers at the front, you can take an additional one-inch piece of pipe cleaner and wrap it around the end of each arm. Then add wiggle eyes.

**More fun:** You can find a maze, crossword puzzle, and free Olly bookmarks to print on [OllytheOyster.com/kidspage](http://OllytheOyster.com/kidspage).

