

Paper Plate Porthole or Aquarium Window Craft

contributed by [Leanne Guenther](#)

This paper plate porthole provides the perfect opportunity for kids to "see what's under the sea".

You can use the templates I've designed as a coloring page behind your porthole or decorate your own with markers, stickers, goldfish crackers and tissue paper.

Materials:

- paper plate,
- silver, white, gold or grey paint and paint brush
- cheerios -- you need about a dozen for the craft and, if your kids are anything like mine, half a box for nibbling on while making the craft!
- a drinking straw or a pretzel
- scissors,
- glue,
- one piece of blue construction paper or cardstock
- clear plastic (we used the clear half of a large ziploc bag)
- Optional - if using template:
 - paper,
 - printer,
 - something to color with
- Optional - if not using template:
 - goldfish crackers
 - green tissue paper (for kelp)
 - markers or pencil crayons
 - ocean stickers

Instructions:

- Cut a circle from the center of a paper plate.

- If making a porthole: For the handle:
 - Glue cheerios to each end of a 2-inch length of a straw or a pretzel and then glue to the paper plate
- or
- glue a milk carton cap and then glue to the paper plate.



- Glue cheerios around the outside of the plate as decorative “bolts”
- Paint the whole plate, including the cheerios silver, grey, white or gold.
- Let dry.
- Optional: Glue a piece of clear plastic inside the paper plate to cover your porthole (the clear half of large freezer Ziploc bags work well for this... I find saran wrap a bit too clingy and difficult to work with)



Option 1: Decorate Your Own Background

- Cut out the circle of construction paper or cardstock but don't glue it onto the paper plate yet.
- Leaving space for glue, decorate your blue construction paper with images from the ocean or an aquarium:
 - You can glue crumpled green tissue paper strips as kelp.
 - You can make draw fish or glue goldfish crackers onto your plate.
 - You can even hot glue real seashells toward the bottom of the paper.
 - use markers or stickers to add details.
- Glue the paper plate over the decorated construction paper or cardstock so you can see your decorations through the hole.

Option 2: Print out Template

- Print out the template of choice.
- Color the template pieces if using the B&W version.
- Cut out the template.
- Glue the paper plate over the template so you can see it through the hole



Templates:

- Close the template window after printing to return to this screen.
- Set page margins to zero if you have trouble fitting the template on one page (FILE, PAGE SETUP or FILE, PRINTER SETUP in most browsers).

Template (ocean scene): [\(color\)](#) or [\(B&W\)](#)

Template (octopus): [\(color\)](#) or [\(B&W\)](#)

Template (shark): [\(color\)](#) or [\(B&W\)](#)