

Summary of the story

Nemo is a clownfish. He lives with his dad, Marlin, in the Great Barrier Reef. It's Nemo's first day at school and he is very excited.

Marlin and Nemo swim through the ocean to the school. Marlin thinks he sees the teachers, but they are the moms and dads. Nemo then meets some new friends.

Mr. Ray, the teacher, arrives. He finds his new class. Nemo is in Mr. Ray's class.

Mr. Ray swims off with his new class and Nemo says goodbye to his dad.

Summary of the film: *Finding Nemo*

Nemo lives with his dad, Marlin, in the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia. When Nemo goes to school, he shows off to his friends and swims off into the ocean by himself. He is captured by a scuba diver in a net. The scuba diver is a dentist and he puts Nemo in an aquarium in his office in Sydney. Nemo makes friends with the fish and other sea creatures in the aquarium.

Level 1

Suitable for:	young learners who have completed up to 50 hours of study in English
Type of English:	American
Headwords:	200
Key words:	5 (see pages 2 and 4 of these Teacher's Notes)
Key grammar:	present simple, <i>Wh-</i> and yes/no questions

Meanwhile Marlin sets out to look for his son. He travels a long way through the ocean and has many adventures. In the end, Nemo's friends in the fish tank help him escape and he is reunited with his dad in the ocean just off Sydney.

Background information

Nemo in School is a short episode from the Disney-Pixar animated movie, *Finding Nemo*. The movie was released in 2003 and was Pixar's fifth movie production. It was written and directed by Andrew Stanton.

The film was inspired by Stanton's visit to an aquarium with his young son. The animators worked hard on the movie to make the underwater world as true-to-life as possible.

The movie won many awards, including the Academy Award® for the Best Animated Feature Film.

Did you know ... ?

Nemo has a very small right fin. In the movie he calls it his "lucky fin."

The name *Nemo* is from the Latin word *nemo* which means *no one* or *nobody*. Clownfish live in the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and the western Pacific Ocean.

The characters

Nemo is a young clownfish. He doesn't have brothers or sisters.

Marlin is Nemo's dad.

Mr. Ray is Nemo's teacher at school. He is a stingray.

Topics and themes

Science The story is about life in the ocean. What sea creatures can students name? Find out if any of them have visited a public aquarium or seen a coral reef. (See also Activity 1 on page 3 of these Teacher's Notes.)

Art The underwater world of *Nemo in School* is a very colorful place. There are fish, coral, and plants of many different colors. Are students surprised to see all the colors in the book? (See also Activity 3 on page 3 of these Teacher's Notes.)

Family Nemo is the only child of a single-parent family. (He doesn't have a mom. He only has a dad). Talk sensitively with students about their family situation. Do they have brothers and sisters? What's good about being an only child? What's not so good? (See also Activity 2 on page 3 of these Teacher's Notes.)

Milestones There are many milestones in our lives. The first day in school is one of them. Some children are excited about their first day. Nemo is! For others it can be worrying. Ask the students what they remember about their first day in school.

Friendship Nemo makes new friends in his class at school. This is important for him because he is an only child. Ask the students about their friends. Do they have friends outside of their class and / or outside of school?

Key words

(see page 4 of these Teacher's Notes for the Key words in context)

class (n)
first (adj)
fun (adj)
live (v)
new (adj)

Accepting differences Nemo has one small fin and one normal fin. When he goes to school, he isn't worried about this difference and his friends aren't either. Talk about accepting physical and other differences with students.

Notes on the photocopiable activities

Page 4: Students could paste the list of Key words into a notebook. You could ask students to learn this vocabulary as homework and then test them on it.

Pages 5–6: While-Reading activities, **Activity 1** You could ask students to correct the two false sentences: **1** *Nemo is an orange and white fish.* **3** *Nemo does not have a brother. / Nemo has no brother.* **Activity 4** Students cut out the sentences using safety scissors and stick them beneath the relevant picture.

Pages 7–8: After-Reading activities, **Activity 1** Print out one page for each pair of students, plus one page to use as an example. Color this page before the lesson, using the same colors as in the reader. Show the colored picture to students. Pairs color in their pictures using the same colors as in your example. Stick each page to a sheet of card or thick craft paper. The students cut out the cards using safety scissors. They then play Pelmanism with the cards: they turn all the cards face down and take turns to turn over two cards in order to find matching pairs. Encourage the students to say the names of the characters and the colors and to use as much English as possible while they play.

Class Activities (After Reading)

Here are some activities to do with your class after reading *Nemo in School*.

1. Posters of sea creatures

Materials: pictures of 8–10 sea creatures, e.g. shark, turtle, whale, dolphin, seal, starfish, stingray, etc; reusable adhesive; large sheets of paper; paints or colored pens

- Draw a large circle on the board and write *sea animals* inside it.
- Show the pictures of the sea creatures to students one by one. Say the name of each creature as you do so. Students repeat each name.
- Write the name of each animal within the circle on the board, leaving space above each one for a picture.
- Ask for volunteers to come and stick the pictures above the words using the reusable adhesive.
- Divide the class into groups of four students.
- Each group makes their own *sea animals* poster. They draw and color the sea creatures and label them.
- Display the posters on the classroom wall.

2. Family trees (over two sessions)

- Draw Nemo's family tree on the board.
- Draw another family tree next to Nemo's. Include children, parents, grandparents, and other family words students know.
- Students draw their own family trees in their notebooks.
- In the next session, students can bring in photos of family members to show the class and / or stick onto a family tree poster.

3. Paint an underwater world

Materials: large sheets of paper, colored paints or pens

- Re-read the story with the students. Ask students to shout out the names of colors in English as they see them in the book. Tell them any colors they don't know.
- Give a large sheet of paper to each student.
- Students paint a picture of Nemo's underwater world. They can copy from the book or create their own scene.
- Divide the class into groups of four.
- Students tell their group what is in their picture and what colors they used.

4. Acting out with puppets

Materials: popsicle sticks; glue; small pieces of white card; a ready-made stick puppet

- Before the session, give each student a role. The roles are: Nemo, Marlin, Mr. Ray, moms and dads, new friends / classmates. There can be several Nemos, Marlins, etc.
- Tell students who they are going to be. Show the class the ready-made stick puppet.
- Each student makes a stick puppet of their character. They draw and color their character on card.
- Students cut out their characters and glue them onto popsicle sticks.
- Play the audio recording of the story and show the pictures in the book. Stop after each page for students to repeat their dialog. Students hold up their stick puppets as they speak.

Key words



class Where's my new class? (p. 13)

first Hoorah! Hoorah! It's my first day in school, today! (p. 5)

fun Have fun in school! (p. 14)

live We live in the ocean. (p. 3)

new Are you my new friends? (p. 10)



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While-Reading activities**Activity 1 (pages 1–3)**Write *yes* or *no*.

- 1 Nemo is a blue and white fish. _____
- 2 Nemo lives in the ocean. _____
- 3 Nemo has a brother. _____
- 4 There are colors in the ocean. _____

Activity 2 (pages 4–7)

Circle the words.

- 1 It's my first **week** / **day** in school.
- 2 **Where** / **What** is my school?
- 3 Nemo is **happy** / **sad**.

Activity 3 (pages 8–13)

Match.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Are you the teachers? | a Yes, we are! |
| 2 Are you my new friends? | b Here we are! |
| 3 Where's my new class? | c No, we're moms and dads. |

Activity 4 (pages 1–14)

Match the words to the pictures.

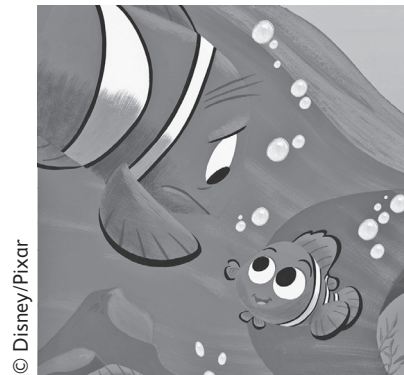
- 1 Bye, Nemo. Bye, Dad.
- 2 Hi, I'm Mr. Ray. I'm the teacher.
- 3 This is my dad, Marlin.
- 4 Where is my school, Dad?



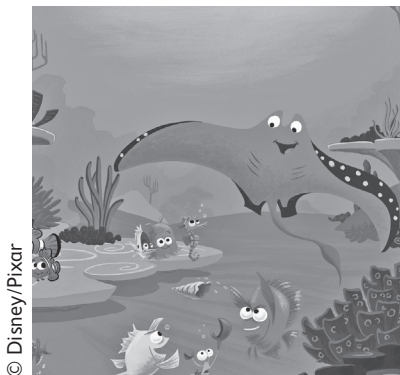
a



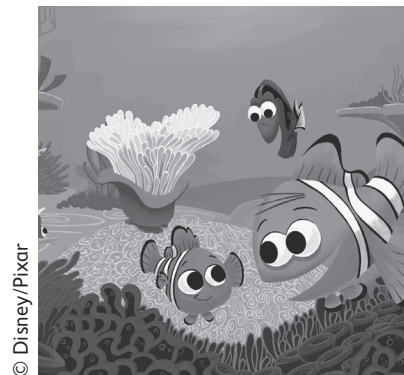
b



c



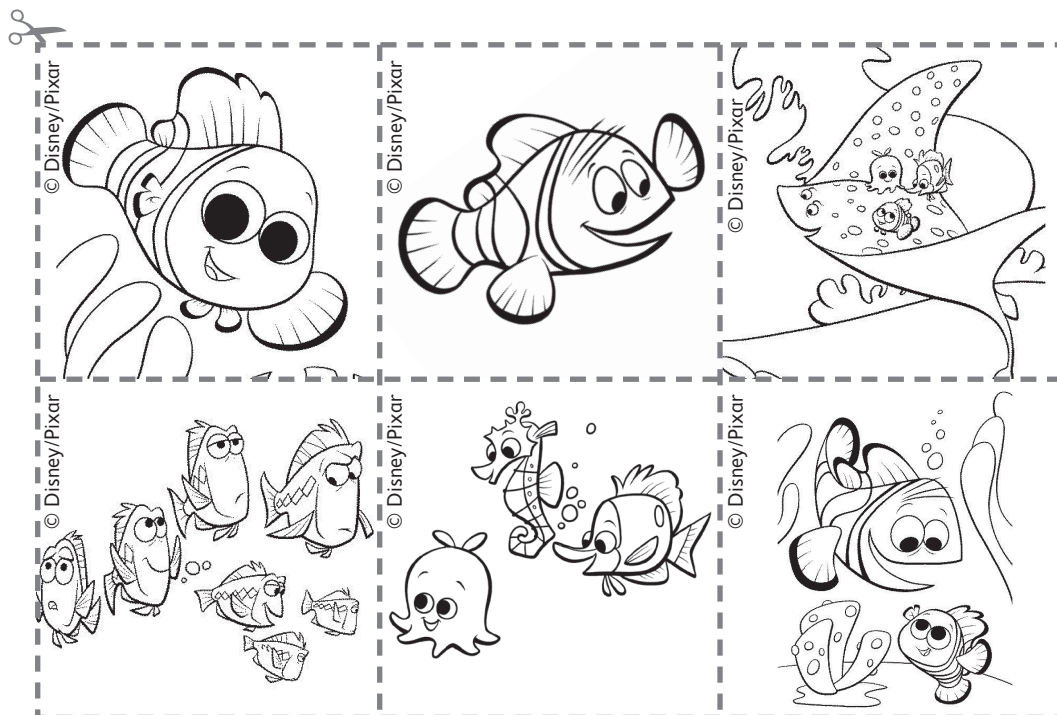
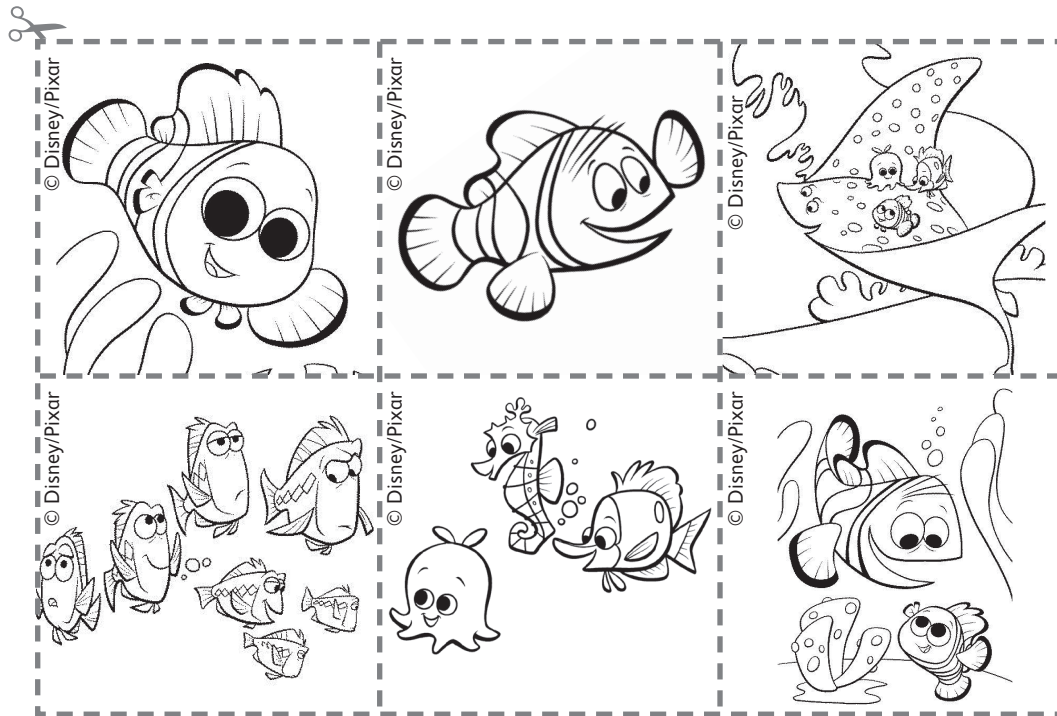
d



After-Reading activities

Activity 1

Color. Then cut and match.



Activity 2

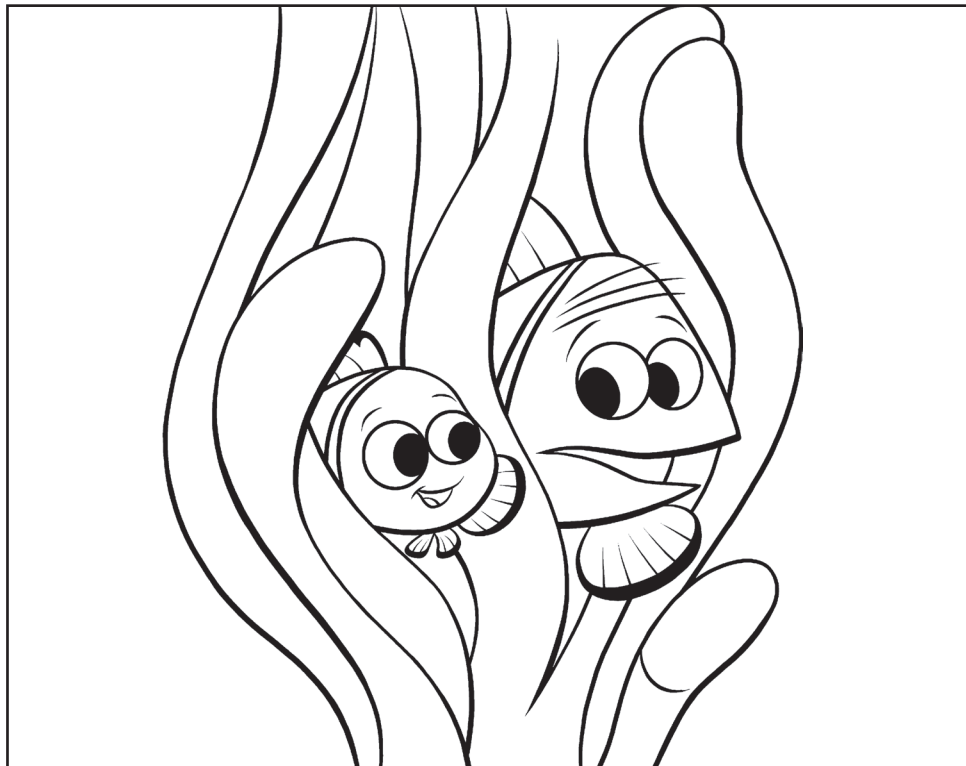
Circle the words.

class first fun live new

a	l	b	e	p	u	r	f
y	i	v	s	a	j	o	v
q	v	g	f	u	n	j	r
l	e	z	c	l	a	s	s
o	f	i	r	s	t	s	s
n	i	w	b	j	k	i	a
e	t	q	s	w	p	h	q
w	x	w	o	v	e	a	y

Activity 3

Color Nemo and Marlin in the ocean.



Answer Key

In the back of the Reader

Before You Read

1 Nemo is a fish.

After You Read

2 1 b 2 c 3 a

3 Nemo is orange, white and black.

In these Teacher's Notes

While-Reading activities

Activity 1

1 no 2 yes 3 no 4 yes

Activity 2

1 day 2 Where 3 happy

Activity 3

1 c 2 a 3 b

Activity 4

1 d 2 c 3 a 4 b

After-Reading activities

Activity 2

a	l	b	e	p	u	r	f
y	i	v	s	a	j	o	v
q	v	g	f	u	n	j	r
l	e	z	c	l	a	s	s
o	f	i	r	s	t	s	s
n	i	w	b	j	k	i	a
e	t	q	s	w	p	h	q
w	x	w	o	v	e	a	y