Fish Hold Activities

Once bagged, scallops are stowed below on ice in the fish hold. As the hold fills up, it is important to keep the weight on either side of the vessel balanced. The object of these activities is to use the balance scale to find things of equal weight.

1. Use a balance to find objects of equal weight.

2. Given various objects, have students write down items they think are of equal weight. Once this is done, have them put items on the balance to see if their guesses were correct.

3. Given a group of items and a balance, have students attempt to divide the items into two groups such that the two groups are as close as possible to being equal in weight. This can be done before actually putting them on the balance or by arranging them on the balance as they go.

4. Divide students into groups of 4-6. Give each student a balance scale. Put a pile of items in the middle of the table. Each student takes turns selecting an item from the pile in the middle of the table and puts it on their balance. Continue in this way until all items are gone.   The object is to get the balance as equal as possible. To do this, each student must be strategic in selecting the objects they place on their balance.

5. This activity is like a Yankee swap. The object is to be the person who ends up with a balanced scale. Divide students into groups of 4 – 6 and give each a balance scale and an item to put on one side of their balance which will determine the weight they are trying to achieve on the other side of their balance (this item could be a block, a roll of coins, a stone, etc.). Put a number of various items in a bag and give each group of students a bag. Student #1 takes an item from the bag and places it on their balance. Student #2 then takes an item from the bag. Student #2 can keep the object they selected or can swap it for the item Student #1 has. Student #3 takes and item from the bag and can either keep that item or swap it for the item Student #2 has. Going around, each student selects an item from the bag and can either keep it or swap for an item the person before them has (Student #1 can swap with the last student). Continue in this way until the bag is empty. The student with the most balanced scale wins.