

Foreshore Observations

Site Activity



What Can Be Learned?

This is an introductory activity which allows the students' to use their observational skills and familiarise themselves with the foreshore as a whole, before moving on to the other site activities which have a more specific focus.

Students are also asked to think about the foreshore ecosystem from the perspective of a particular scientist.

Materials Required

Clipboard
Question/record sheet



The Activity

When you first arrive at the site, ask the students to spend 15 minutes looking around the foreshore and thinking about their answers to the questions on the question sheet. Ask them to pick three questions to answer.

Ask the students to take on the role of their chosen scientist (see the Unit Overview page - 'Which Scientist is Which' activity). Spend 10 minutes surveying the foreshore from this scientist's perspective, and writing down some observations.

Report back - sit down on the beach with the students and discuss some of the things they noticed.

Questions will vary according to the location being visited, but here are some suggestions -

- As the students walk from an inland point towards the beach they are to observe the changes from an inland environment to a beach environment.
- Is there a sudden change in soil/tree type? Or is it a gradual change?
- Are there sand dunes?
- Can they find any wildlife corridors that run towards the beach? What animals might use the wildlife corridors to get to the beach?
- What type of vegetation is along the beach?
- Where is there vegetation and where is there very little vegetation?
- Who and what would benefit from this vegetation?
- Is the vegetation native or introduced?
- What can you notice about the geology of the area?
 - Is it low tide or high tide?
 - Is the sand the same colour as the rocks?
 - Are there rock pools?
 - What do you notice about the cliffs as well as what is above and below them?
 - Where is there human land use and development?
 - How far away are the nearest houses or signs of development?
 - Who/what is using the beach, and what for?

Students' work should include:

Their chosen field of science;

Observations from this perspective;

What they would like to know more about.