

Field Study: Rocky Shore Ecology

Activity Outline

Year 5-6 (Stage 3)

Aim

Within this activity students explore the ecology of coastal rocky shore ecosystems and gain an appreciation for the diversity of life on rocky shores. They examine the varying characteristics and adaptations that these life forms possess. Students will identify organisms which inhabit rocky shorelines and categorise them into a number of general ecosystems zones. Students will look at the whole ecosystem level and identify both positive and negative links between the study sites and adjacent ecosystems.

Key Understandings

- Ecosystems consist of both living and non-living components.
- Living things can be differentiated and identified using various characteristics.
- Energy continually flows through ecosystems.
- Matter cycles within ecosystems (i.e. carbon, oxygen and nitrogen)
- Human development and natural events impact on the flow energy and matter through different ecosystems.
- Appropriate ecosystem management relies upon an understanding of the varying relationships both within and between ecosystems.

Key terms

Abiotic, biotic, human impact, interaction, community, sustainable management, ecosystem, environment, desiccation, adaptation, predation, herbivore, omnivore, carnivore, taxonomy, phylum, class, diversity, abundance, distribution, ecology, organisms, energy, matter, dissolved oxygen, salinity, turbidity, water.

Syllabus: Science Stage 3

Year 5: ST3-1WS-S, ST3-2DP-T, ST3-4LW-S, ACSSU043, ACSIS090

Year 6: ST3-1WS-S, ST3-2DP-T, ST3-4LW-S, ACSSU094, ACSIS110

Key competencies

- Working scientifically
- Collecting, analysing and organising information
- Communicating ideas and information
- Using technology
- Using mathematical ideas and techniques
- Working with others and in teams