
Lesson Ideas – All Creatures Great and Small

Broad Learning Outcomes

- Students will learn about the variety and different sizes of marine animals
- Students will learn about the role that each animal plays in their habitat and ecosystem

Class Activities

- Use rope or a tape measure to show the length of a variety of marine animals using our [Sizing Up Marine Creatures](#) list. Use students laying in a line or chalk outside to show how enormous they can be. Learn more about our biggest creatures using our [whale infographic](#) and [slideshow](#).
- Investigate how a whale or dolphin uses echolocation. First use a tennis ball against a wall to explain that the sound bounces off the wall and back to themselves. Students sit in a circle while one student in the middle is blindfolded. Students in the circle will click or clap and the 'whale' in the middle points to where the sound is coming from. If they block one ear, they may not be able to detect the sound as accurately. Explain that human noise disturbances like ships can affect how a whale uses its echolocation.
- Create a marine food chain by giving students images of sea plants and animals and linking arms when an animal finds its food. Discuss how the food chain begins with plants and small animals such as plankton, moving up to huge animals like sharks and whales. Introduce the concept of food webs, as most animals are not restricted to one type of food. Show how if we remove plants or an animal, how all links in the food chain are important. What if humans began to pollute waterways or started overfishing?
- Students will use names or images of marine animals or beachcombed items to play 'What Am I?'. Each student will have an animal name stuck to their back and must ask other class members 'yes or no' questions about their animal to help them to identify themselves. When they have discovered who they are, they must find another animal around who is similar to theirs or from the same group of creatures. For example, whales are similar to dolphins and crabs are similar to lobsters.
- Take a closer look at sand using a hand lens or magnifying glass. Feel the difference between fine sand and coarse sand. What is its composition? Explore what makes up sand including small particles of silica and broken or small shells. Older students can then explore erosion along the coast of metropolitan Adelaide and the sand management practices that must occur to save our beaches.