Lesson Ideas – Catchment to Coast

Broad Learning Outcomes

- Students will identify how we are connected to our oceans
- Students will consider human impacts on the marine environment
- Students will investigate how they can lessen their impacts on the environment

Class Activities

- Students investigate how rain falls on different surfaces around the school or home. Will it run off or soak in to become groundwater? Discuss that any water that runs off the street or roof can end up in stormwater drains, which usually end up in rivers or oceans. What should go down the drain and what should not?

- Students participate in a clean-up at school or their local beach and record the litter that they find. Use our marine debris datasheet to tally and discuss your findings.

- Students work together to create a 'Coast Code' of rules that help to look after the marine environment. Create a pamphlet or poster to educate others about these rules.

- Students design an interview to find out what other people in their school and at home think about caring for our oceans and marine environment. They will present their findings to the class.

- Create a class mural made using litter collected from the beach, or from donated scrap materials which are difficult to recycle. Students can design the mural to tell the story of marine litter.

- In small groups, investigate if different plastics and litter sink or float in salt and fresh water. How could this affect wildlife in the oceans? This activity can be extended to investigate how ocean currents can carry floating litter around our oceans. Use a tray of water with some floating plastics and rocks to represent islands and allow students to create their own ocean currents using their breath and paper straws.

- Students discuss human impacts on the marine environment and write a pledge to care for our oceans. They may create their own or use our Ocean Pledge template.

- Investigate some coastal habitats of South Australia such as sand dunes, mangroves, saltmarshes and mudflats. Students will find out how these places are threatened by human activity and design a coastal interpretive sign to educate visitors.