

Porci's Ocean Patrol Activity Sheet



Series 1: Episode 4 – Notes for Educators

Introduction

Welcome to Series 1: Episode 4 of Porci's Ocean Patrol (POP), a short, beautifully animated video that educates Reception to Year 4 students about the 'Great Southern Reef'.

Porci's Ocean Patrol is a Marine Discovery Centre project and can be accessed on YouTube and the Marine Discovery Centre website:

<https://www.marinediscoverycentre.com.au/porci-s-ocean-patrol>

These notes provide an outline of what young viewers can expect to see and discover when they view Episode 4. They also include key Episode 4 information to assist with student learning.

General introductory information relating to Porci's Ocean Patrol, and the presenters who appear in the videos, can be found on the Marine Discovery Centre website.

Let's get started!

Series 1: Episode 4 (Run time – 7 minutes and 37 seconds)

Episode 4 begins with a short, general introduction to the 'Great Southern Reef', located off the coast of South Australia, and to the creatures that exist from the surface to the bottom of the ocean.

This episode (as with all future episodes) has three major themes:

THEMES	EPISODE 4 TOPICS	RUN TIMES
1. Tips for keeping the ocean healthy that everyone can do.	Protecting Our Beaches	0:38 to 2:23 minutes
2. Information about the sea creatures living in the ocean.	Stingrays	2:24 to 4:14 minutes
3. About the culture of the Kaurna people from the Adelaide Plains area.	Aboriginal Culture – Sweet Treats	4:15 to 6:21 minutes

Question 1 (38 seconds into the episode)

Ocean Patroller, Nathan, asks the first question:

"How can we better protect and look after beaches in our local area?"

Georgie (and Porci) explain that our beaches should 'sparkle with natural beauty'. This means that rubbish should always be disposed of, never left on the beach.

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Other key topics and information include:

- If you see rubbish – pick it up!
- Join a beach clean-up crew with friends and environmental groups to make a difference
- Reduce, reuse and recycle
- Be an 'eco-friendly pirate' and protect the ocean from plastic invaders
- Say 'no' to single-use plastic like bottles, wrappers and bags – use reusable containers and drink bottles
- Plastic is harmful and toxic to marine life
- Support eco-friendly brands

Students also learn that seashells are homes for tiny creatures and help to balance our oceans, so they should stay on the beach (not be taken home as souvenirs).

Question 2 (2 minutes and 24 seconds into the episode)

Ocean Patroller, Oscar, asks the second question:

“Why does a stingray need a barb on its tail?”

Porci explains that stingrays and eagle rays are like the oceans 'secret agents'. They use their venomous barb as a 'trusty weapon' or 'special power' to protect and defend themselves from sharks and other big fish. Students learn that stingrays are shy and gentle creatures and prefer to swim away than start a fight.

Students discover that stingrays do not attack humans unless they are feeling very threatened. They are creatures that enjoy 'chilling' and burying themselves in warm shallow water.

Students will also discover that stingrays are ancient ocean creatures, even older than dinosaurs! Some species have 'fancy eyes' that can see colours. They also have mouths on the underside of their bodies to feed from the sea floor.

Lastly, students learn that if they ever come across a stingray, to treat them with respect and do the 'stingray shuffle' (keep feet firmly on the ground and slowly slide away). This gives the stingray a chance to swim away. If ever accidentally stung by a stingray, pour hot water over the sting and follow first aid.

Question 3 (4 minutes and 30 seconds into the episode)

Ocean Patroller, Jasmine, asks Porci and Karno the third question:

“Did you ever eat anything like lollies 60,000 years ago?”

Karno explains that there are some 'sweet surprises' in nature. Sweet treats found in the great outdoors are something called 'Sugar Lerps' and they are mother nature's version of lollipops.

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Karno then goes on to explain that Sugar Lerps are tiny, crystallised drops of honeydew (like little lolly pieces) that are made by Psyllid bugs.

Psyllid bugs chew on leaves, then excrete a sugary substance called 'honeydew', when the honeydew sits on the leaves it turns into 'Lerps'. Lerps can be various shapes and sizes depending on the bug that made them.

POP Quiz Questions

The episode concludes with two multiple choice POP quiz questions for students (answers in red):

1. How long have stingrays been around?

- A. Born yesterday
- B. Longer than dinosaurs**
- C. About 20 years

2. What size is a Sugar Lerp?

- A. All sorts of sizes**
- B. 10cm
- C. 5mm

Asking Questions

Student Ocean Patrollers are invited to ask Porci questions. Submit any student questions using the following link:

<https://www.marinediscoverycentre.com.au/porci-s-ocean-patrol/ask-porci>

Facts for Students

A fact sheet for students has also been developed, and provided in PDF format, as a support document for 'Porci's Ocean Patrol' – Series1, Episode 4.

Activity Sheets

A range of activity sheets have been developed to complement the video and student facts. These cover Foundation to Year 4 learning levels (with many providing two levels of difficulty) and focus on the English, HaSS and Science learning areas.