

Porci's Ocean Patrol Activity Sheet



Series 1: Episode 6 – Facts for Students

Sand Dunes

- South Australia's coast was once like a colossal sandbox crafted by the sea over thousands of years.
- As time went on, humans built on top of them which disturbed the natural flow of sand.
- Sand dunes help to protect our beaches from disappearing! Think of it as the beach being the fortress and the plants are the brave defenders.
- The plants use their roots to stand strong and keep the sand safe from the big waves and gusty winds.
- We do not want to walk on the sand dunes as we want those plants to stay strong and protect the dunes.
- Dunes create their own special habitat at the beach with lizards catching insects, birds singing their songs and maybe even a snake having a snooze.
- We should walk on pathways, follow signs and if you are up for it, join local groups helping with dune revegetation projects.

Port Jackson Shark

- The Port Jackson Shark is a stripey shark who loves the rocky reefs.
- The Port Jackson Shark's mum lays a dozen spiral-shaped eggs, she tucks them into cosy rock crevices which keeps them safe and hidden.
- The eggs hatch into adorable shark pups after about a year of growing.
- The pups venture into the shallows until they are big enough for deep-sea adventures.
- Port Jackson Sharks do not have a 'typical' shark jaw. They have small pointy front teeth and blunt back teeth,
- Their teeth are special for munching on sea urchins, molluscs, and crustaceans.

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- If you want to see the Port Jackson Sharks, head to Port Noarlunga Reef in Encounter Marine Park from Summer to Autumn. Here the Port Jacksons all gather to mingle and mate.
- The Port Jackson Sharks need our help! Overfishing, climate change, and habitat loss are casting shadows on their underwater paradise.
- We can be ocean guardians by respecting their home and spreading the word to help protect these striped wonders!

Sea Country - Spears

- Aboriginal people are masters of spear throwing, they use a tool called a 'Midla' to help them throw the spears really far.
- The Midla is like an extension of the arm and makes spear throwing so much easier. It gives the spear more speed, great distance, and power.
- Lightweight spears such as, the Kaya, the grass tree spear, the Kutpi, the reed spear, and the Witu, the toy reed spear can all be thrown with the midla. But it cannot be used for the heavy spears like the wirnta barb spear.
- The Kaya spear is perfect for hunting or fighting, it is made with a tea tree or eucalyptus timber shaft, sinew, and glued together with grass tree resin.
- The Kutpi spear is like a multitool. It is used for fishing, hunting and even in battles. Its shaft is made from common reed, and the tip is crafted from tea tree or eucalyptus timber.
- The Witu spear is like a toy spear for kids to use. It is made from common reed and has a ball of dry grass at the end. Kids use it for playing battle games and to practice their spear throwing by aiming at mukarta, a round bark target.