



Series 1: Episode 8 – Facts for Students

Western Blue Groper

- Scientific name: *Achoerodus viridis*
- These fish are not actually groper, but they are a type of wrasse, the largest bony fish species living in the rocky reefs of South Australia
- Females and young ones will have shades of green and brown while the males have the shades of cobalt blue.
- Some of the males will begin their life as a female.
- If the large male was to disappear, then the female will take over and transform into a male Western Blue Groper.
- The groper have been around for a very long time, with their family roots stretching all the way back to the Ice Age.
- They can live up to 70 years old and grow up to 1.7 metres long.
- They help keep the ecosystem balanced by eating animals such as crabs and sea urchins. This helps the reef, if there were too many crabs and sea urchins, they would eat away all the algae leaving the reefs barren and empty!
- Western Blue Groper have faced issues from spear fishers and overfishing, these pressures have left the Blue Groper on the “Vulnerable” list.
- They do not reach maturity until they are at least 15 years old and are not fully grown until they are 30 years old.
- We can help them out by keeping our oceans clean and clear of rubbish.

Didgeridoo

- The traditional name for the didgeridoo is Yidaki.
- This comes from the first creators of the instrument, who are found in Northeast Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. They are called the Yungu people.

Porci's Ocean Patrol Activity Sheet



- For the Aboriginal people of Australia, they only allow the use of this instrument by males/boys.
- To play the didgeridoo:

First: is to learn to create rhythms of vibration with your mouth.

Second: creating sounds with your voice, like mimicking the sounds of animals, for example a Dingo or a Kookaburra.

Third: to learn to play the instrument for a long time. This is done through a method of breathing called circular breathing. This is where you breathe in through your nose while having a continuous airflow and vibration coming out of the mouth.

Seaweed

- There are over 10,000 species of seaweed worldwide.
- On the Great Southern Reef, there are around 1,500 species, many of which are not found anywhere else in the world.
- There are 3 colours of seaweed, red, brown, and green.
- Seaweed has a holdfast, this is how they attach to rocks and can flow in the strong waves without drifting away. Their 'leaves' are called Fronds.
- Some brown seaweeds have hollow floats to help them shoot up towards to ocean surface so that they can reach the sunlight.
- Seaweed can grow really fast! Giant kelp can even grow up to 50cm in just 1 day!
- Seaweeds are habitat builders! Kelp forests are made of brown seaweeds like golden kelp, giant kelp, and bull kelp. These all help to form underwater habitats filled with many other animals from small snails to large whales.
- Red and brown seaweeds are used in our everyday life and can be found in products from toothpaste to ice cream and even household cleaners.
- Washed up seaweed is also important as seabirds will come to feast on tiny critters hiding. It also gives nutrients to the plants growing further up on the sand dunes.