Lesson Ideas – Wonderful Marine Life

Broad Learning Outcomes

- Students will learn about the variety of marine plants and animals
- Students will identify features of various marine animals and investigate their function
- Students will learn about differences in marine habitats and how they fulfill animals' needs

Class Activities

- Sort images or drawings of marine life into plants and animals. Have students group them according to their own criteria. Older students may be able to sort into animal groups such as fish, bivalves, mammals, crustaceans and echinoderms.

- Set up a box containing various beachcombing items to be identified by touch only. Learn about where some beachcombing objects come from using our infographic.

- Students will choose a marine creature, draw it and choose words to describe the living and non-living things it needs to survive.

- Discuss and compare different shapes of fish and how this is influenced by where they live or how they move. Learn the different body parts of a fish by using our fish information sheet for ideas.

- Students will use images of a fish, sea lion, crab and seagull to identify the body parts or coverings on each animal that it uses to move, eat and protect itself.

- Students will consider why different animals live in different habitats. Discuss different marine habitats such as rock pools, seagrass meadows, rocky reefs, mangrove forests and open ocean. What makes these habitats unique and what lives here? Match up images of animals to images of their habitat.

- As a class, create a chart of the ocean depth zones using a long sheet of paper. Start with intertidal areas like rock pools, then the sunlit zone (0-200m), the twilight zone (200-1000m), the midnight zone (1000-4000m) and the abyss (4000-10000m). Students will then draw images of various marine animals and stick them to the chart where they belong.

- Students will research seagrasses in South Australia; what kind of seagrasses grow here, who lives in these habitats and are there any threats to this ecosystem?