



Porci's Ocean Patrol

Series 1: Episode 1 – Facts for Students

Microbeads

- Microbeads are tiny pieces of plastic, only about one millimetre in size, and sometimes they are even smaller.
- Microbeads are found in some soaps, face scrubs, shampoos and sometimes, even toothpaste!
- Microbeads do not dissolve in water or break-down.
- Microbeads are sometimes added to products to make them thicker, smoother or to help make the product last longer.
- When microbeads wash down the drain they can end up in our oceans.
- Microbeads may harm fish and other marine animals when they eat them. They can even be harmful to humans if we eat fish that have eaten the microbeads.
- Government is trying to have microbeads banned from being used in products.
- Ingredients like salt and crushed seeds can be used in products instead of microbeads.
- How can you tell if a product contains microbeads? Check out the ingredients. If any of the following ingredients are listed on the label of a product's bottle or tube, then it contains microbeads.
 - Polyethylene – sometimes written as PE
 - Polypropylene – sometimes written as PP
 - Polyethylene terephthalate – sometimes written as PET
 - Polyemethyl methacrylate – sometimes written as PMMA
 - Nylon – sometimes written as PA

These are big words but, by law, if a product contains any of the above ingredients, they must be listed in the ingredients of a product.



Leafy Sea Dragons

- Leafy Sea Dragons only live in one place in the world and that's off the coast of South Australia in the 'Great Southern Reef'.
- Leafy Sea Dragons are often called 'Leafys' for short.
- Leafys have great camouflage, which means that they can blend very well into their environment. This helps them stay hidden from fish that like to eat Leafys. It also makes it difficult for us to spot them.
- Some divers began catching Leafys and taking them home as pets, so Leafys are now a protected species. This means that it is now against the law for people to keep Leafys as pets, which is great news.
- Leafys don't have any teeth. They suck up their favourite food, which are tiny creatures called 'Mysids', through their long pipe-like snout and small mouth.
- When Leafy's breed, the girl Leafy moves about 250 bright pink little eggs over to the boy Leafy. The boy Leafy then fertilises the eggs. It is the job of the boy Leafy to look after the eggs by keeping the eggs on the underside of his tail.
- Boy Leafys carry the tiny Leafy eggs for about 4 – 6 weeks until all the little Leafys have hatched out of their eggs and are free to swim away.

The Kurna Language

- There used to be about 500 Aboriginal languages throughout Australia but now there are only about 150.
- 'Kurna' is the language of the Kurna people whose traditional land is the Adelaide Plains in South Australia.