



## Series 1: Episode 3 – Facts for Students

### Sea Country - Fishing

- There were many options when it comes to fishing, some include, using a spear, catching fish with your bare hands, or using animal bones as a hook.
- Reeds are the tall, slender plants that you might find along water.
- Knobby Club Rush Reed or Bull Rush Reed are specific types of reeds that can be made into fishing line.
- These reeds are weaved and twisted together to form a sturdy and strong string that is used as fishing line.
- These reeds were also used for bindings on shelters, and even as fasteners for clothing.

### Plastic Bags

- Plastic bags can cause serious harm to many animals in the ocean, because they can get tangled or it looks like food.
- It can take up to 10-20 years for a plastic bag to break up and when it has broken up it does not disappear, they just turn into tiny pieces.
- Marine creatures such as seabirds, whales, fish, and turtles can think these small pieces of plastic are food. This fills their stomach with plastic and can cause them to starve.
- Some plastic bags are labelled 'Green and Degradable' or 'Naturally Degradable'. You need to look at the label closely as these types of bags still just break down into even smaller pieces and are still made from regular plastic, meaning they are not really 'green' at all.
- The term 'biodegradable' can be tricky too. In places like the USA, a product can only be called 'biodegradable' if it breaks down in nature within 5 years. Although here in Australia some regular plastic bags are labelled 'biodegradable', which can be misleading.

# Porci's Ocean Patrol Activity Sheet

---



- Using reusable bags is a good start to help the plastic bag problem, and always check the label when you are shopping, staying away from 'degradable' bags!
- Remember 'compostable' bags are made from a natural plant starch and they are a much better choice! They break down in the compost without harming the environment!

## Little Penguins

- Little Penguins like to hang out in all Southern Australian and New Zealand waters.
- Little Penguins are seabirds that do not fly.
- They normally live for 6.5 years although they have been reported to live as long as 25 years!
- There are 17 species of penguins in the world and the Little Penguin is the smallest of them all.
- You can see the Little Penguins on Granite Island, off the coast of Victor Harbour, although the numbers have dropped lately and there are only about 20 penguins left on the island.
- Little Penguins face challenges like, less fish for them to eat due to climate change, and other marine predators trying to make them their dinner.
- We can help the Little Penguins by:
  - always put your rubbish in the bin,
  - keep your pets away from where the Little Penguins hang out,
  - if you see someone causing trouble for these Little Penguins, do not be shy and report it!
  - keep the noise down near their nesting areas,
  - no flash photography or bright lights,
  - if in a boat, steer clear.
- Their breeding season is from May to February.