

Porci's Ocean Patrol

Series 1: Episode 7 – Notes for Educators

Introduction

Welcome to Series 1: Episode 7 of Porci's Ocean Patrol (POP), a short, beautifully animated video that educates Reception to Year 4 students about the 'Great Southern Reef'.

Porci's Ocean Patrol is a Marine Discovery Centre project and can be accessed on YouTube and the Marine Discovery Centre website:

<https://www.marinediscoverycentre.com.au/porci-s-ocean-patrol>

These notes provide an outline of what young viewers can expect to see and discover when they view Episode 7. They also include key Episode 7 information to assist with student learning.

General introductory information relating to Porci's Ocean Patrol, and the presenters who appear in the videos, can be found on the Marine Discovery Centre website.

Let's get started!

Series 1: Episode 7 (Run time – 8 minutes and 5 seconds)

Episode 7 begins with a short, general introduction to the 'Great Southern Reef', located off the coast of South Australia, and to the creatures that exist from the surface to the bottom of the ocean.

This episode (as with all future episodes) has three major themes:

THEMES	EPISODE 7 TOPICS	RUN TIMES
1. About the culture of the Kurna people from the Adelaide Plains area.	Kids Sports on Country	0:38 to 3:01 minutes
2. Tips for keeping the ocean healthy that everyone can do.	Plastic Breakdown	3:02 to 4:49 minutes
3. Information about the sea creatures living in the ocean.	Porcupinefish	4:50 to 6:48 minutes

Question 1 (38 seconds into the episode)

Ocean Patroller, Kiara, asks Porci and Karno the first question:

"Did kids play sport games thousands of years ago?"

Karno explains that there were lots of games that were played, and one that was popular was a game called Parntu. This was played with a ball made from possum skin, and filled with 'pidna' (charcoal), 'tutha' (dry grass) or 'kardi wapa' (emu feathers). He notes that all natural materials were used, and that nothing goes to waste.

Karno explains the rules of the game which includes two teams, kickers and markers, taking turns to kick the Parntu into the air and trying to catch it. The person who catches it becomes the new kicker. Porci notes that it's a bit like footy or 'Marks Up'. If the ball hits the ground, the ball goes back to the kicker for a re-kick.

Question 2 (3 minutes and 2 seconds into the episode)

Ocean Patroller, Luke, asks the second question:

"How long does it take for plastic to break down in our environment?"

Georgie explains that plastic never really disappears but breaks up into tiny pieces instead and remains in the environment. When small, this plastic can be eaten by both small and big sea creatures like zooplankton and whales. Georgie and Porci mention that straws can hold their shape for 200 years, while plastic bottles and nappies last for 450 to 500 years.

Georgie explains that we can do something to battle the plastic menace, such as swapping a plastic toothbrush for one made of bamboo, and to bring your reusable straw with you. Each small action like recycling hard plastics can all make a difference.

Question 3 (4 minutes and 50 seconds into the episode)

Ocean Patroller, Aurelia, asks the third question:

"I'd really like to know what kind of fish you are?"

Porci explains that he is a Porcupinefish, also known as a Globefish or Blow-up Fish and that he has fused teeth in a parrot-like beak that is used to crunch on clams, crabs and sea urchins.

Students learn that Porcupinefish live in Southern Australia, in seagrass beds, shallow reefs and under jetties. They can puff up like a balloon by swallowing water or air and making themselves spiky when danger is around.

Students also learn that the Porcupinefish is nocturnal, using its big eyes to find crabs and snails in the sand at nighttime, and can blow jets of water.

Porci explains that he should never be eaten due to his sharp spines and the poison found inside called tetrodotoxin. You should also be careful not to let your pets near Porcupinefish if they are found washed up on the beach.

POP Quiz Questions

The episode concludes with two multiple choice POP quiz questions for students (answers in red):

1. Where do Porcupinefish call home?
 - A. California
 - B. Sydney
 - C. Southern Australia**
 - D. London
2. How long do plastic straws stick around?
 - A. 10 – 20 years
 - B. 2 Days
 - C. 6 Months
 - D. 200 Years**

Asking Questions

Student Ocean Patrollers are invited to ask Porci questions. Submit any student questions using the following link:

<https://www.marinediscoverycentre.com.au/porci-s-ocean-patrol/ask-porci>

Facts for Students

A fact sheet for students has also been developed, and provided in PDF format, as a support document for 'Porci's Ocean Patrol' – Series1, Episode 7. The following websites are also referenced for additional facts:

1. Plastic Breakdown - <https://wwf.org.au/blogs/the-lifecycle-of-plastics/>

Activity Sheets

A range of activity sheets have been developed to complement the video and student facts. These cover Foundation to Year 4 learning levels (with many providing two levels of difficulty) and focus on the English, HaSS and Science learning areas.