

What lives in the sea around us ?

Subject/Topic:

UK Marine Wildlife,
Classification

Suitable for: Younger years

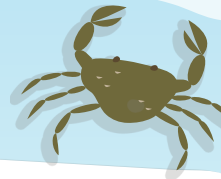
1 Background

Biodiversity means 'variety of life' and can be measured as the number of different species in an area, and the quantities of each. Biodiversity is important because all living things play an important role in their environments. A wide variety of organisms are necessary to maintain a healthy ecosystem as most organisms are dependent on - or at least affected by - each other. The ability of an ecosystem to recover from threats, its resilience, is vital and must be supported and conserved.



2 Set the Scene

With talk partners, children to discuss ideas of animals that live in the sea. Share ideas as a class and record as a brainstorm.



3 ReSources

Amazing UK Seas gallery, non-fiction texts on a range of marine animals, computer access

4 Investigate

Show children images of UK marine creatures from the photo gallery. Children to use computers to investigate the gallery and choose a creature to focus on. Discuss: Are there any creatures that they didn't realise lived here? Group animals into fish, mammals or reptiles. Explain that there is another group, amphibians, that live in water and on land but these are not sea animals. Consider how else these animals could be grouped.

5 Apply

Choose one of the creatures to draw. Record its name and a fact, if children are able. Explain that these drawings will be the start of a working wall on UK Marine Life. Children should be encouraged to continue to add to this working wall throughout your unit of work or term. This will demonstrate the biodiversity of our seas. Opportunities for students to record the connections between species will further reinforce this concept.

6 Extend

Use non-fiction books or the UK seas search on the MCS website to find out more about the chosen animal.

7 Reflect

Ask students, did you realise there are so many creatures in our seas? Introduce the term biodiversity and invite students to contribute to the working wall over the coming weeks.



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