

Lesson: Ecological footprint

Phase of learning

Years 5 - 6, Years 7 - 8

WA Curriculum

K-10 English, K-10 Humanities and Social Sciences, K-10 Science

Region

West Coast, South Coast

Summary

Students will investigate some human impacts on the marine environment and develop informative posters for their school community.

Outcomes

- Students will identify potential sources of human impact on the marine environment.
- Students will consider how language choice and imagery build emotional connection.
- Students will use scientific knowledge to inform personal and community decisions.

Duration

2-3 x 30-45 minute lessons

Preparation

This lesson is part of a unit of work on the text Blueback. It assumes some previous study of the text has already been completed. View the full Unit [here](#).

Students may require access to the internet and/or library to research some potential sources of human impacts on the marine environment.

Western Australian curriculum

LEARNING AREA	STRAND	SUB-STRAND	CODES
English	Literature	Responding to literature	ACELT1620
English	Literature	Examining literature	ACELT1617
English	Literacy	Interacting with others	ACELY1699 , ACELY1710

Science	Science as a human endeavour	Use and influence of science	ACSHE100
HASS	Knowledge and understanding	Geography	ACHASSK112
HASS	Inquiry and skills	Analysing	ACHASSI099
HASS	Inquiry and skills	Communicating and reflecting	ACHASSI105

Steps

1. Engage students in a shared reading of Chapter 12.
2. Discuss the human impacts on the marine environment as raised in the text – e.g. dynamite fishing, pollution, oil spills, spearfishing, tourism.
3. Discuss other potential human impacts that students are aware of, on the marine environment in Western Australia – e.g. ecotourism, overfishing, damage to corals from snorkellers and scuba divers, removal of seagrass from ill-placed anchors, trampling of sand dunes.
4. Brainstorm as a class, ways that people can lessen their ecological footprint when using the marine environment.
5. Ask students to work in pairs (small groups) to develop a poster to educate others in the school community on how to minimise their impact on the marine environment.
6. Display posters around the school and/or present at a school assembly.

Related resources

[Unit: Blueback](#)

Keywords

human impact, overfishing, dynamite fishing, spearfishing, pollution, oil spill, prop scars, sand dunes, blueback