Lesson: Is it really a fish? (Year 3)

Phase of learning
Years 3 - 4

WA Curriculum
K-10 Science

Region
North Coast, Gascoyne Coast, West Coast, South Coast, Indian Ocean Territories

Summary
Students will classify a range of marine organisms to determine whether they are fish or not.

Outcomes

- Students will explore the term classification.
- Students will learn that biological classification involves grouping organisms with similar characteristics.
- Students will attempt to simply classify some common marine organisms.

Duration
45 minutes

Preparation
Background information about fish anatomy can be found in the Fact Sheet: Fish Anatomy.

Each student will require a copy of Student Worksheet: Is it really a fish? (Year 3)

This lesson requires students to have access to non-fiction books on marine organisms and/or the internet. It also assumes that students have some prior knowledge of biological classification. The Lesson: What's a Fish? (Year 3) may precede this lesson.

Western Australian curriculum

LEARNING AREA	STRAND	SUB-STRAND	CODES
Science	Science understanding	Biological sciences	ACSSU044

Steps

1. Recall prior learning about biological classification, in particular of marine organisms.
2. Brainstorm marine creatures that have the word 'fish' in their name, e.g. cuttlefish, jellyfish. Discuss whether all of these are actually fish and why or why not?
3. Distribute Student Worksheet: Is it really a fish? (Year 3) and allow students to refer to reference books and/or the internet to complete.
4. Discuss student answers.

Additional Resources

Ayling, T. & Parish, S. 2009 A Wild Australia Guide: Marine Life. Steve Parish Publishing, Queensland.

Ayling, T. & Parish, S. 2008 Amazing Facts about Australian Marine Life. Steve Parish Publishing, Queensland.

Department of Fisheries, Beachcombers Education Kit, http://beachcombers-kit.fish.wa.gov.au/

Parish, S. 2008 Amazing Facts about Australian Marine Fishes. Steve Parish Publishing, Queensland.

Related resources

Fact Sheet: Fish Anatomy
Student Worksheet: Is it really a fish? (Year 3)
Teacher Resource Sheet: Is it really a fish? (Year 3) - suggested answers

Linked External Resources

Beachcombers Education Kit

Keywords

classification, features