

Poster: Bringing the Beach to You - Christmas Island

Region

Indian Ocean Territories

Summary

Explore the beach flotsam and jetsam of Christmas Island.

BRINGING THE BEACH TO YOU

CHRISTMAS ISLAND



SEA LETTUCE

This green algae is edible and is used as a food source in many countries. It is also an important food source for marine life.



FUNNEL WEED

This brown algae has fan-shaped fronds that create a funnel shape.



SARGASSUM

Sargassum, meaning 'floating seaweed' in Spanish, is a type of brown algae. The small bubbles help it float in the water column.



SEAGRASS

Seagrasses are marine flowering plants with leaves, roots, flowers and seeds. They are extremely important as they stabilise sandy sea floors and provide habitat and food.



ORNATE BROWN ALGAE

Also known as the 3 cornered hat algae, it has branched holdfasts that attach the algae to a substrate. The spiny ornamented leaf structure is buoyant and will float if detached from the stalk.



DEAD MAN'S FINGERS

This dark green algae has tube-like forking branches, a firm but spongy texture and belongs to a group of algae called *Codium*.



COCONUT

Coconuts can float for long distances across the ocean and then put down roots again when they are washed ashore. Coconut trees can be planted to protect against coastal erosion.



SEA BEAN

The seed from the South American Monkey Ladder vine gets its name from its love-heart shape. Heavy rainfalls wash the seeds down to the ocean where they can travel thousands of kilometres before washing ashore.



CORAL

Corals are colonies of tiny tubular animals called polyps. The polyps contain tiny 'symbiotic' algae called *Zooxanthellae*, which give the coral their colour and supply the coral with food. When the polyp dies, the hard skeleton remains, and sometimes washes ashore.



SEA SPONGE

Commonly mistaken for plants, sponges are in fact filter-feeding animals.



GIANT CLAM

These very large molluscs can live for more than 100 years in the wild. The number of giant clams has drastically reduced due to overharvesting. Like corals, they get their magnificent colours from tiny 'symbiotic' algae called *Zooxanthellae*.



MUSSEL

Mussels are bivalve molluscs - meaning they have two shells (valves) joined by a hinge.

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