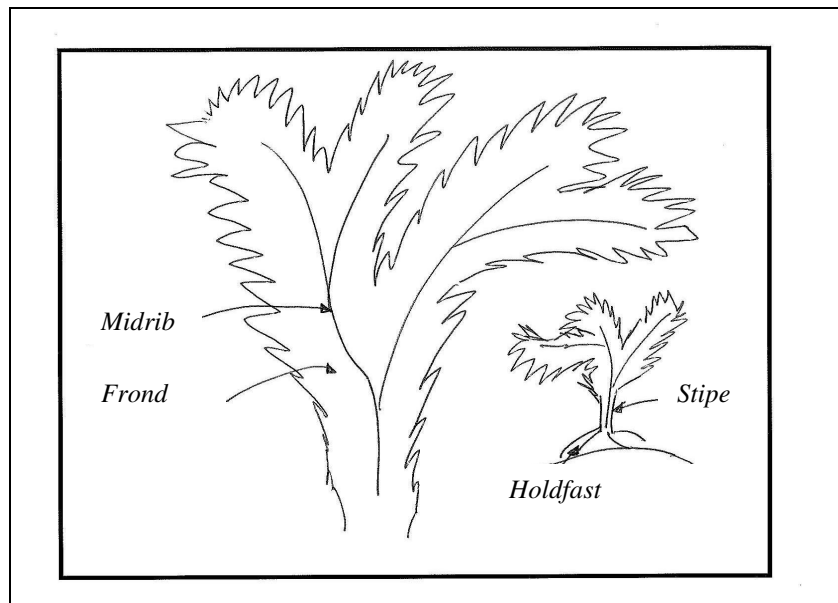


Lesson Plan: Creating a Seashore Guide – Scientific Recording and Drawing



CREATING A SEASHORE GUIDE – SCIENTIFIC RECORDING AND DRAWING

Aim / Description:

Students can create their own seashore guidebook by recording information and drawing in details of species and plants found on the seashore. The aim of the activity is to get students to explore and learn about the species and plants on the seashore through their own investigation and draw them in detail.

Students should become familiar with the species and seaweeds names prior to their exploration. On the seashore, students should investigate and explore what lies under the seaweed, rocks and in the sand and water. (Teachers should have the published guides with them to assist with queries or unknown species).

Materials:

- Basins / Buckets
- Nets
- Worksheet: Seashore Guide – Scientific Recording and Drawing (select pages required for each student)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Clipboard (it is useful to have a plastic sheet attached to the clipboard to keep the paper dry)

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Activity: Scientific Recording and Drawing

Step 1. Complete a reconnaissance of the seashore prior to taking the students on the fieldtrip. Take digital photographs of the species and seaweeds the students are likely to find. The photos can be used in a presentation prior to visiting the seashore highlighting “What will I see at the Seashore”.

Step 2. Provide an introduction and overview to the Seashore looking at the environment (substrate), plants, seaweeds and species on the seashore.

Step 3. Set the students off on an “exploration experience” on the seashore. Explain that they are to imagine themselves as scientists visiting an undiscovered country or another planet and they are discovering species and plants that have never been seen by anyone before. As scientists’ it is their job to record as much information as possible to take back to their laboratory (school).

Instruct the students that they will need to complete the worksheets recording information about each species / seaweed:

- **Colour**
- **Size**
- **Texture**
- **Shape**
- **Location on the beach species / plants are found (including zones)**
- **Food**
- **What does the species / plants remind them of?**

The students will also need to draw a detailed picture of the species and seaweeds. They should record its size, colour, shape, texture etc and what it looks like from different angles (i.e. underneath, side profile etc). Each drawing should be labelled identifying the different parts (e.g. seaweed – should show the holdfast / stipe / fronds / air bladders / reproductive bodies etc).

The students should measure and record the height and width of the species and seaweeds. Encourage the students to use their own words to describe and create stories and anecdotes about what they find.

Depending on the age of students, they could also include biological information about the species and seaweeds:

- Movement
- Respiration
- Sensitivity
- Growth
- Reproduction
- Excretion
- Nutrition

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Step 4. Hand out the Seashore Guide Worksheets and materials to the students. Provide sheets with the names of species and seaweeds pre-selected that students should find. Also, provide some 'blank' sheets in the event that the students come across something 'unusual' that they wish to record.

Step 5. Send the students off in different directions and zones on the shore to complete their scientific investigating, research and drawing. (Finding and recording up to five species and three seaweeds should take up to an hour to complete). Follow the students around and ensure that they are able to find and identify different species and plants. Note that only the teacher should use a guidebook to assist with any queries or "unidentified species". The students should be encouraged to examine, investigate, and discuss their finds with other students.

Outcome:

Students will have developed:

- exploration and investigative skills
- skills in recording data and information in a scientific format
- recognising and identifying the seaweeds and species on the seashore
- drawing skills