

JUNIOR RANGERS

BORN TO EXPLORE



SEAWEED DISCOVERY



EXPLORE VICTORIA'S BEACHES AND DISCOVER WHY SEAWEED ISN'T JUST A SMELLY WEED.

Seaweed is very important, it provides marine animals with food and shelter and is used by humans for food, medicines and fertilisers.

Seaweed can be found anywhere along Victoria's coast. Fresh seaweed is washed up every day along the daily tide line and along the high tide mark you can find plants and animals that have been there for a bit longer.

Before you start:

For your safety, always visit the beach at low tide and with an adult. Never touch sharp objects. Wear a hat, long-sleeved shirt and sunscreen to avoid sunburn.

Remember to take photos and have fun, take your rubbish home and leave all the creatures, seaweeds and shells where they are.

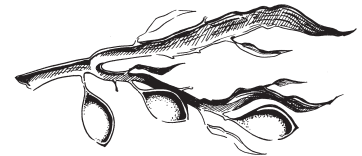


ANSWER: Airt! *The bubbles on seaweed act like lifejackets and hold the seaweed near the water surface so it can catch as many sun rays as possible.

SEAWEED FLOATS

Pop one of the bubbles on seaweed. What is inside?

*See answer bottom left of page.



GO FOR A WALK ALONG THE BEACH AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THESE AMAZING SEAWEEDS. TICK OFF WHAT YOU FIND ON THIS SHEET AND COLOUR THE PICTURES.

Bull Kelp

This brown, tough and leathery seaweed can grow up to 80 metres tall. It grows in underwater forests in shallow oceans.



Coralline Algae

When Coralline Algae is alive it comes in pinks, purples or reds but when it washes up on the beach, it bleaches white by the sun.



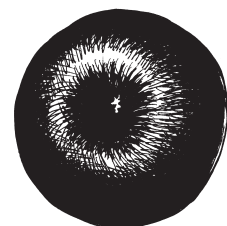
Green Sea Velvet

This seaweed is velvety green and is also known as 'dead man's fingers'.



Sea Apple

A Sea Apple is velvety green and looks like an apple, but isn't edible.



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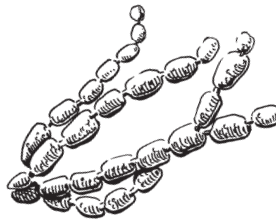
Sea Lettuce

This bright green seaweed can often be seen on the rock platform. Sea Lettuce can be eaten and even added to salads and soups.



Neptune's Necklace

Neptune's Necklace can stay out of the water at low tide because it stores water in its small bead-like blades.



Seagrass

Seagrass is a flowering plant, not seaweed. Small fish and invertebrates hide from predators in seagrass.



SEAWEED HOLDFAST

A seaweed's holdfast is like a suction device which attaches the seaweed to rocks using a powerful 'super glue'. Find seaweed that has been washed up on the beach with a rock attached to it. Try pulling the seaweed from the rock. Did you manage to pull it off?

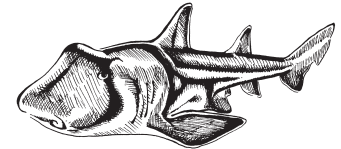


DID YOU KNOW THAT...

You use Kelp every day? The slimy stuff in Bull Kelp helps bind ice cream, toothpaste and vegemite together!



Small shark species like Port Jackson Sharks lay their eggs in seaweed to protect them from predators?



A Decorator Crabs snips off tiny bits of seaweed and sticks them to its back so that it can camouflage in seaweed?



Phytoplankton are microscopic algae that drift in the ocean and are responsible for most of the world's oxygen?



SEAWEED HUNT

Seaweeds come in three basic colours: brown, green and red. When they have been on the beach for a while they turn black or are bleached white by the sun.

Find five different types of seaweed on the beach. Feel the seaweed and write down what colour it is and describe what it feels like. Words that you can use are: hairy, soft, curved, shiny, spiky, slimy, wet, sharp, prickly, bumpy, hollow, flat, rough, smooth.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____