

Leafy Sea Dragon Lessons

The following lessons are designed to accompany the leafy sea dragon craft activity and extend the students' learning. They are written for primary students, but can be adjusted to suit lower or higher year levels.

Curriculum Alignment

Science

Science Understanding

- Animals grow, change and reproduce. In order to survive they rely upon each other and their environment.

Humanities and Social Sciences - Geography

Geographical Knowledge and Understanding

- Environments provide habitats for animal populations and these need to be protected and nourished.

Broad Learning Outcomes

Participating in the lessons will assist students in achieving the following outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify and discuss the habitat, life cycle, behaviour, diet, etc. of a particular Australian creature/animal.
- Students will explore how creatures/animals adapt to survive in their environment.

Lessons Ideas

- Brainstorm a list of underwater Australian creatures/animals.
- Research the leafy sea dragon using the following headings: scientific name, habitat, diet, life cycle, behaviour, appearance and interesting facts. Indicate on a map where the leafy sea dragon can be found.
- Investigate which Australian animals are classified as vulnerable, threatened or endangered. What are the reasons for these classifications? What action can students take to help these animals? What classification applies to the leafy sea dragon?
- Select an Australian creature/animal, then describe and list how it has adapted to suit its particular environment.

- Select two Australian creatures/animals and compare and contrast them on a Venn diagram.
- Look at various Australian creatures/animals and describe the attributes that help them to survive. Students may draw and label the animal's characteristics, or create a model of one.
- Create a class 'underwater' mural and use it to display the leafy sea dragons that students make.
- Use plasticine or modelling clay to make a representation of the leafy sea dragon's life cycle.
- Students to investigate the many interesting characteristics of leafy sea dragons that help them to survive.
- Sort a list of Australian creatures/animals into the categories of 'predator' or 'prey'. Is the choice always easy? Discuss and debate choices. How else could the creatures/animals be sorted?
- Brainstorm a list of Australian creatures/animals then create an 'achievement list'. Consider:
 - fastest
 - slowest
 - biggest
 - smallest
 - deadliest
 - cutest
 - most unusual looking
 - best camouflage
 - most adaptable.
- Consider how a leafy sea dragon moves then find a piece of music that suits the movement.
- Conduct an internet image search of leafy sea dragons. Do they all look the same? How do they differ? Are any differences due to gender, habitat, age, etc.? Create a digital photo story with the images.