

UC Santa Barbara

Educational Materials

Title

Coal Oil Point Reserve Journaling Lesson

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Authors

Myers, Jan D
Thorsch, Jennifer
Lanes, Andrew

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Next Generation Science Standards

2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the diversity of living things in each of a variety of different habitats.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include specific animal and plant names in specific habitats.]

Lesson Plan: Nature Journal

Objective: Students will explore the sights, sounds and smells of the beach habitat. Students will gain experience using a journal to record their scientific observations for future reflection.

Materials: KIN Journals, Pencils,

Preparation: Find a relatively secluded corner of the beach with few distractions.

Introduction: First, gather in a group and sit down in the sand spaced out enough to avoid distractions. Tell students that at this station, we will slow down a little bit and use some other senses to explore the beach habitat. Emphasize why it is important for scientists to keep detailed records of their observations, including sounds and smells.

Procedure: When everyone is calm, ask the students to close their eyes for a minute and pay close attention to the sounds they hear. (Note: Time one minute if desired) When time is up, ask students to open their eyes and record in their journals (page 53) what they heard and what they think it was. Repeat this activity but ask the students to breathe deeply and pay special attention to what they smell. When time is up ask the students to open their eyes and record what they smelled and where they think the smells are coming from. Last, ask the students to look around and record what they see.

Conclusion: As a group, sit and discuss the sights, sounds and smells that everyone experienced and what they think they were.

Points of interest: There is an abundance of tar washed ashore and floating in the water around Coal Oil Point Reserve.