

**Activity Title:**

# Tahatai – different coastal environments

## Focusing questions

What is the coast?

What types of coastal environments are there?

## Resources required

- Large sheets of paper
- Coloured pens

## Prior learning

Students will need to know the basics of brainstorming to complete this activity in a co-operative and supportive way. If the class or groups are not used to brainstorming, some basic instructions will be required to ensure:

- Everyone's ideas count equally.
- Only positive comments or discussion should occur when an idea is put forward.
- Where the board or paper is used, the person who came up with the idea can choose to write it down.

## Method

- 1 The objective of this activity is to explore the concept of the tahatai or coast and the different types of coastal environments that exist in New Zealand.
- 2 Explain to students that before starting a new unit of learning it is useful to look at what we already know.
- 3 Brainstorm the coast or tahatai. As a class, come up with a definition for the coast (which includes the land and the sea). OR put the class into groups. Each group can have their own brainstorm on a definition of coast using a sheet of paper. After 10 to 15 minutes of brainstorming ask groups to report back their definition of coast. These can be written on the board.
  - Has each group used the same words? Or included the same concepts in their definition?
- 4 Then as a class, brainstorm the different types of coastal environments that exist. These might include: the sandy beach, rocky shores or estuaries.

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Tahatai – different coastal environments

**Environmental Education Aspect:**

About the environment

**Environmental Education Concept:**

- Interdependence
- Biodiversity

**Curriculum Links:**

- Social Science
- English
- Science

**Suggested Curriculum Level:**

Any

- 5 In groups students brainstorm the characteristics of each type of coastal environment. Use the following questions and statement as a guide:
  - Write a list of words that describe the physical characteristics of this type of coast.
  - What animals and plants would you find on this type of coast?
  - What activities might you do on this type of coast?
  - What type of sea water movement is there on this type of coast? Is the water rough, calm, moving or still?
- 6 Groups report back to the class.
- 7 Discussion:
  - How are soft shore environments (such as estuary and open coastal sandy beaches) different to hard shore environments (such as rocky shores)?

### Possible next steps

- 1b Beach brainstorm – an activity that looks specifically at the sandy beach.
- 1c Beach diagram – developing knowledge of the different parts of a beach through a beach labelling exercise.
- 1d Formation and characteristics of different types of beaches – an activity looking in more detail at formation and characteristics of different types of beaches in New Zealand (including east and west coast, estuarine and open coast sandy beaches).
- 2i Interrelationships – dune animals and plants – an activity exploring some of the interrelationships that exist between beach and dune species for example, pīngao and dotterel.