

Activity Title:

How we feel about and value the beach

Focusing questions

Why are beaches important to us?

How do we feel about the beach?

Resources required

- Pens
- Paper

Prior learning

1b Beach brainstorm

1e Beach sketch

3a Changing New Zealand beach use

Method

- 1 The objective of this activity is to explore why the beach is important to us and how we personally feel about the beach.
- 2 Prior to conducting this exercise you could take students to the beach (and conduct activity 1e) or show them pictures of the beach.
- 3 Each student has a pen and a piece of paper in front of them. Conduct a visualisation exercise where students close their eyes. Imagine the sights, smells and sounds of the beach. Write down (with open eyes!) words that come to mind to describe the beach, its sounds, smells and sights. Next think of words that describe what you like about the beach, and write these down. Think about words that describe good experiences you've had at the beach and write these down. Think about what you value about the beach and write down any words to describe this. Finally, write down words or a couple of sentences that explain how you feel about the beach.

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Environmental Education Aspect:

About the environment

Environmental Education Concept:

- Interdependence

Curriculum Links:

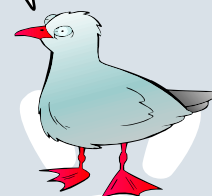
- English
- Social Science
- Arts

Suggested Curriculum Level:

Any

SUSTAINABILITY TIP!

You could use scrap or recycled paper to conduct this activity!



- 4 Describe and illustrate how you feel about and value the beach (using words that have been written down during the visualisation exercise) by creating one of the following:
 - A poem
 - A picture
 - A song
 - A short play or skit
 - A short story
 - A short speech
- 5 Students present their poems, songs, skits, stories, pictures or speeches to the rest of the class.
- 6 Discuss:
 - Does everyone feel the same about the beach?
 - Do you think students in other parts of the country and other parts of the world might feel the same about the beach? Why or why not?
 - How would we feel if the beach wasn't there any more?
- 7 Reflection:
 - Are there consistent themes that are evident in student feelings about the beach?

Possible next steps

- Find examples of Aotearoa poetry, songs, art, stories, speeches and plays that convey how other New Zealanders feel about the beach—look in words of waiata by Hirini Melbourne or paintings by Colin McCahon.
- 3d New Zealanders and the beach – brainstorm activity that considers the relationship between New Zealanders and the beach.
- 3e Kiwiana and the beach – an activity that builds on the previous one and uses symbols of New Zealand culture to explore New Zealanders relationship with the beach.
- Create an online survey of students from around the world to find out how they feel about and value the beach.

