

# Creature Features

**LOCATION:** NZ Marine Studies Centre, Portobello, Dunedin

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## **PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION:**

This programme focuses on the concepts of similarities and differences, drawing particular attention to external features of marine organisms that can be used to help group, catalogue, and classify them.

Students are taken along for the experience of a scientist discovering a new marine creature, and the journey to identify, classify and communicate their findings. Children will enjoy a hands-on experience of sorting and grouping various marine creatures, followed up with a tour of the aquarium tanks and a visit to the touch pools!

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## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of how scientists work together to gather data and support their ideas and explanations of the marine environment.
- Be able to identify external feature similarities and differences in order to group marine organisms.

### **Extras**

Gain a new or renewed appreciation of marine life and the marine environment.

Gain a new appreciation of marine science as a possible field of study or a future career.

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**YEAR/LEVEL** Years 1-6 Levels 1-3

## **CURRICULUM LINKS**

**Nature of Science (NoS):** Investigating in Science, Understanding about Science

**Science:** Science Living World, Life processes, Ecology, Evolution, Levels 1-2; Evolution Level 3

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**KEY COMPETENCIES:** Thinking, managing self, relating to others

**PRE TRIP PREPARATION:** No preparation essential.

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## **RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

Class sets of Rocky shore and Sandy and Muddy Shore identification guides are available on application to the NZMSC.

**RELATED TOPICS:** Similarities, differences, comparison, grouping, communication, science research, classifying

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**PROGRAMME COSTS:** \$8.00 per student (GST excl.)

**PROGRAMME LENGTH:** 2 hours

**GROUP INFORMATION:** As we will be working in a University of Otago Laboratory, students must wear closed toed shoes.

# Example itinerary

## 10.00 am

Arrive at NZ Marine Studies Centre

LAB: Intro and overview of the programme

## 10.15 am

Multipurpose Room: Discovery Session - What does a scientist do when a new animal is discovered? Setting the scene for observing adaptations and forming categories.

## 11.00 am

Rotate between stations of 15 min

i) LAB: Classification of sea creatures into 3 groups (Crustacean, Mollusc, Echinoderm)

ii) AQUARIUM: Exploration and interpretation of lots of creature features - **Microeye**

iii) TOUCH TANKS: Hands on with some of our local marine creatures.

## 11.45 am

Did we find the mystery creature? To what group does it belong?

## 12.00 pm

Wrap up and depart NZMSC (opportunity to stay for lunch)

### **SAFETY ACTION PLAN:**

In the field: as per field operations

In Laboratory: as per Lab safety

Covid guidelines: as per government and University of Otago Covid guidelines

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