

Respecting our

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Fraser Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Discover • Connect • Conserve

.....

THREATENED SPECIES EDUCATION BOOKLET

Advanced

APPROPRIATE FOR AGE 11



ADVANCED APPROPRIATE FOR AGE 11

EDUCATION BOOKLET

Parent, Guardian and Teacher Notes

Hi there!

Hi there! We hope that your child/student enjoys completing these activities before and after 'The Sign Search' for information about these amazing threatened species on the beautiful Fraser Coast. Our goal is to empower your child/student with knowledge of their local natural environment and also, the 'know-how' to be able to help protect it.

This Fraser Coast Regional Council education booklet was developed to align with the information provided on the signage installed in Point Vernon.

This signage has been installed by the Fraser Coast Regional Council to raise awareness about the environmental values of this region and to provide nature-based learning experiences in the following three key areas:

- **Marine Turtles**
- **Shorebirds**
- **Marine Values** (Seagrass Meadows, Coral Reefs, Rocky Shores and Mangroves)

Activities are divided into the following:

- Before your '**Sign Search**'
- '**The Sign Search!**'
- After your '**Sign Search**'

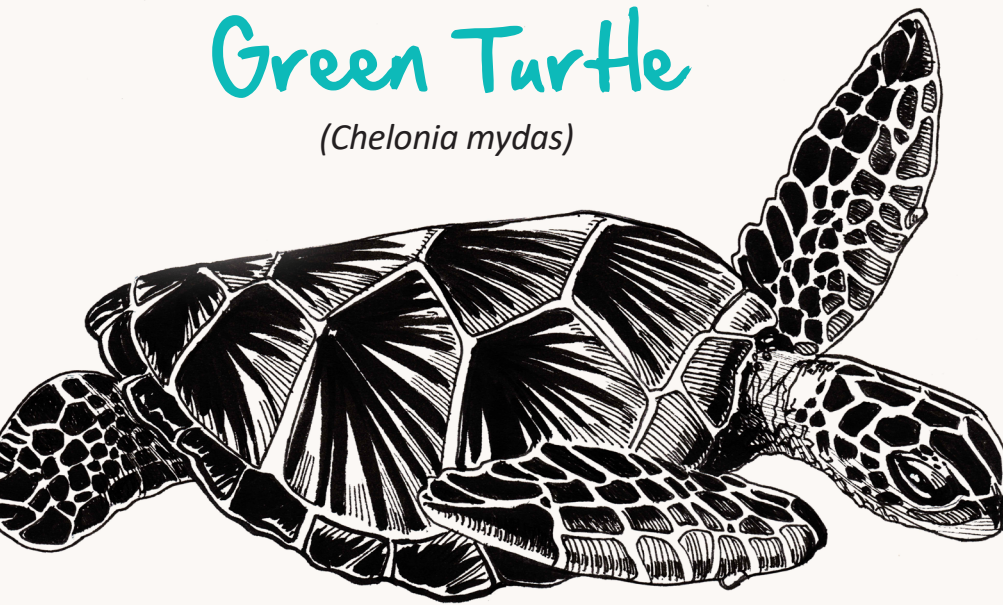
'The Sign Search!' activities have been designed to be completed at the sign location specified in the activity explanation.

MARINE TURTLES

ADVANCED

Gordon the Green Turtle

(Chelonia mydas)



ACTIVITIES IN THIS BOOKLET

ACTIVITY 1: 'Before Sign Search'
Make a 'turtle-y awesome' turtle conservation cake!
Read the blog about Loggerhead Turtles to learn about the work of Natura Pacific and various other organisations

ACTIVITY 2: 'Sign Search'
Excursion to find the 'Turtle-y Awesome Turtles' sign. Conduct a small 'beach clean-up' event and register the litter you collect with Taronga

ACTIVITY 3: 'After Sign Search'
Write a turtle story using all the knowledge you have learned

Gordon is a green sea turtle, but he isn't obviously green,
The 'green' part of his name derives from parts that are unseen,
Gordon keeps his green parts private;
I promise you'll soon see how,
But first let's learn a little more,
about Gordon and his pals.

Gordon is an avid gardener,
he tends to his seagrass bed daily,
Seagrass is like the ocean's greens
and Gordon chomps them gayly,
By trimming seagrass with his beak,
Gordon keeps the seabeds clean,
Grazing daily is Gordon's thing and it's this diet that turns his fat green!
Gordon has a friend named Shirley,
she lays their eggs on the beach,
Over several months she lumbers ashore, and digs a hole as deep as she can reach,
Into this nest hole, go about 110 eggs, small, white and round,
The eggs are a bit like ping pong balls, but they're rubbery and don't make a sound

Gordon and the Green Turtles are endangered, their numbers have gotten too low,
This is actually a catastrophe, because the seagrass needs grazing to grow,
We need to do all that we can, to help the Green Turtles to thrive,
Let's get started on some activities to learn how YOU can help Green Turtles survive.

ACTIVITY 1: 'BEFORE SIGN SEARCH'

Make a 'turtle-y awesome' turtle conservation cake!

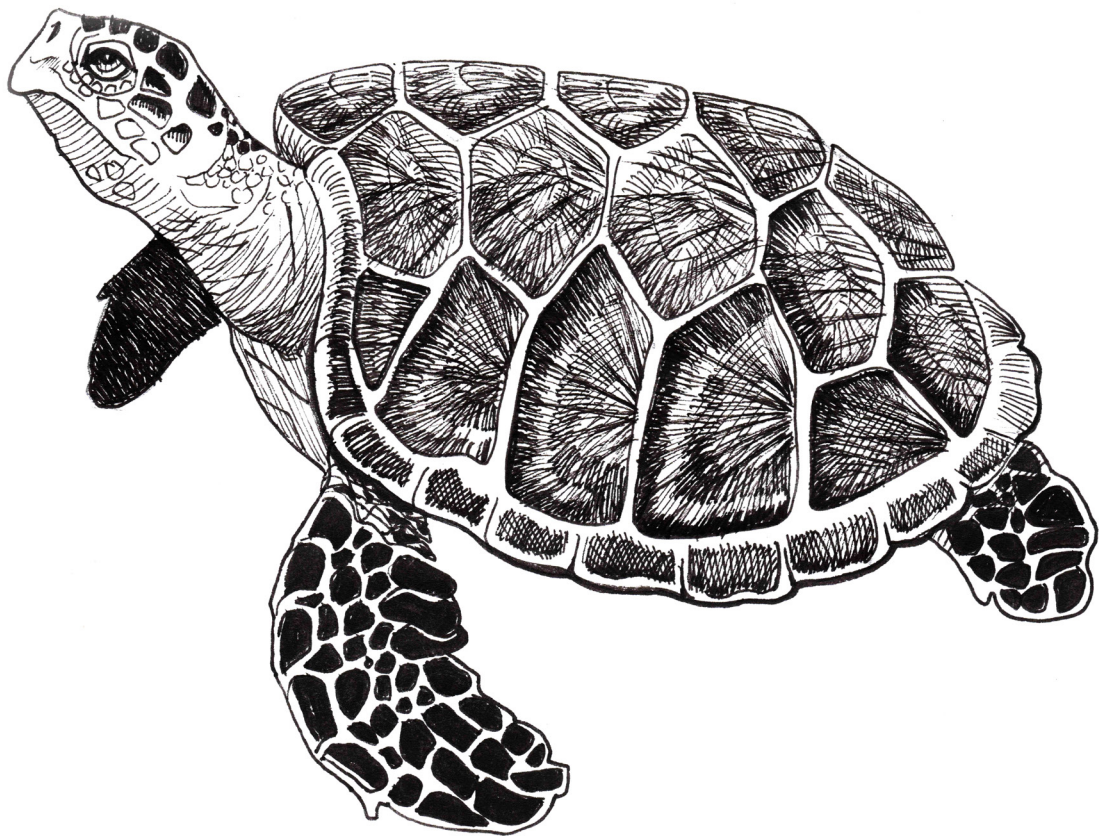
Bake (or buy) a cake. Use icing, fruit and/or lollies to decorate it like a turtle. Ensure to include the scutes, flippers, beak and tail. Have a conversation about turtle conservation while enjoying the cake with family and friends!



ACTIVITY 1: 'BEFORE SIGN SEARCH'

Read the blog about Loggerhead Turtles

Read the blog, '*Loggerhead Turtle – Back from the Brink*' to learn about the work of Natura Pacific and various other organisations www.natura-pacific.com/loggerhead-turtle-back-from-the-brink



ACTIVITY 2: 'SIGN SEARCH' 'Turtley Awesome Turtles' Excursion

Find the *'Turtley Awesome Turtles'* sign. Have a read and choose your favourite out of the four turtle species described in the sign. Keep your favourite turtle in mind as we will be using them for the next activity!

Conduct a mini clean up event and register the litter you collect with Taronga: www.ala.org.au/biocollect



ACTIVITY 3: 'AFTER SIGN SEARCH'

Write a turtle story using all the knowledge you have learned

1. Species: (e.g. Hawksbill Turtle) _____

2. Characters Name: (e.g. Fred) _____

3. Set the Scene: (e.g Fred the Hawksbill Turtle lives in the coral reef near Hervey Bay)

4. Design Your Character: (e.g. personality, likes, dislikes)

5. Work out how your story ends: (e.g. makes a friend and lives happily ever after)

6. Figure out your plot: (e.g. chased by a shark, saved by another turtle, they become friends because they both like same things)_____

ACTIVITY 3: 'AFTER SIGN SEARCH'

Now draft your story!

Introduction

Complication 1

Complication 2

Resolution

Ending

SHOREBIRDS

ADVANCED



Barry the Beach Stone Curlew

(Esacus magnirostris)

In houses by the seaside, a haunting scream wakes a troubled child from their sleep. A harsh high pitched cry of WEER-LEW repeated, slices through the calm night air. Barry, a Beachstone Curlew is announcing his territory on the shore line of the dark tumbling sea. This secretive bird prefers to roam the beach when no people are about. Stealing through the shadows, using them to hide his stocky robust body while he stalks his prey. Barry has waited for the last light from the houses to go out. He hunts by moonlight alone. Creeping forward, careful steps, now STOP, an eye moves in his direction... FREEZE, wait, don't move. The eye looks away, now MOVE, as fast as lightening Barry STRIKES. He has his prize. A small crab snatched from the sand, quickly smashed and eaten. He calls in triumph to ensure his territory is declared WEER-LEW WEER-LEW WEER-LEW.

ACTIVITIES IN THIS BOOKLET

- ACTIVITY 1: 'Before Sign Search'**
Spot the difference
- ACTIVITY 2: 'Sign Search'**
Read the *'Meet the locals'* sign and see how many of the birds described you can spot. Take a photo of a bird or other animal that you see at the shoreline
- ACTIVITY 3: 'After Sign Search'**
See if you can identify the bird/ animal in your photo and upload your bird to ALA OR Inaturalist. Complete crossword

ACTIVITY 1: 'BEFORE SIGN SEARCH'

Spot the Difference

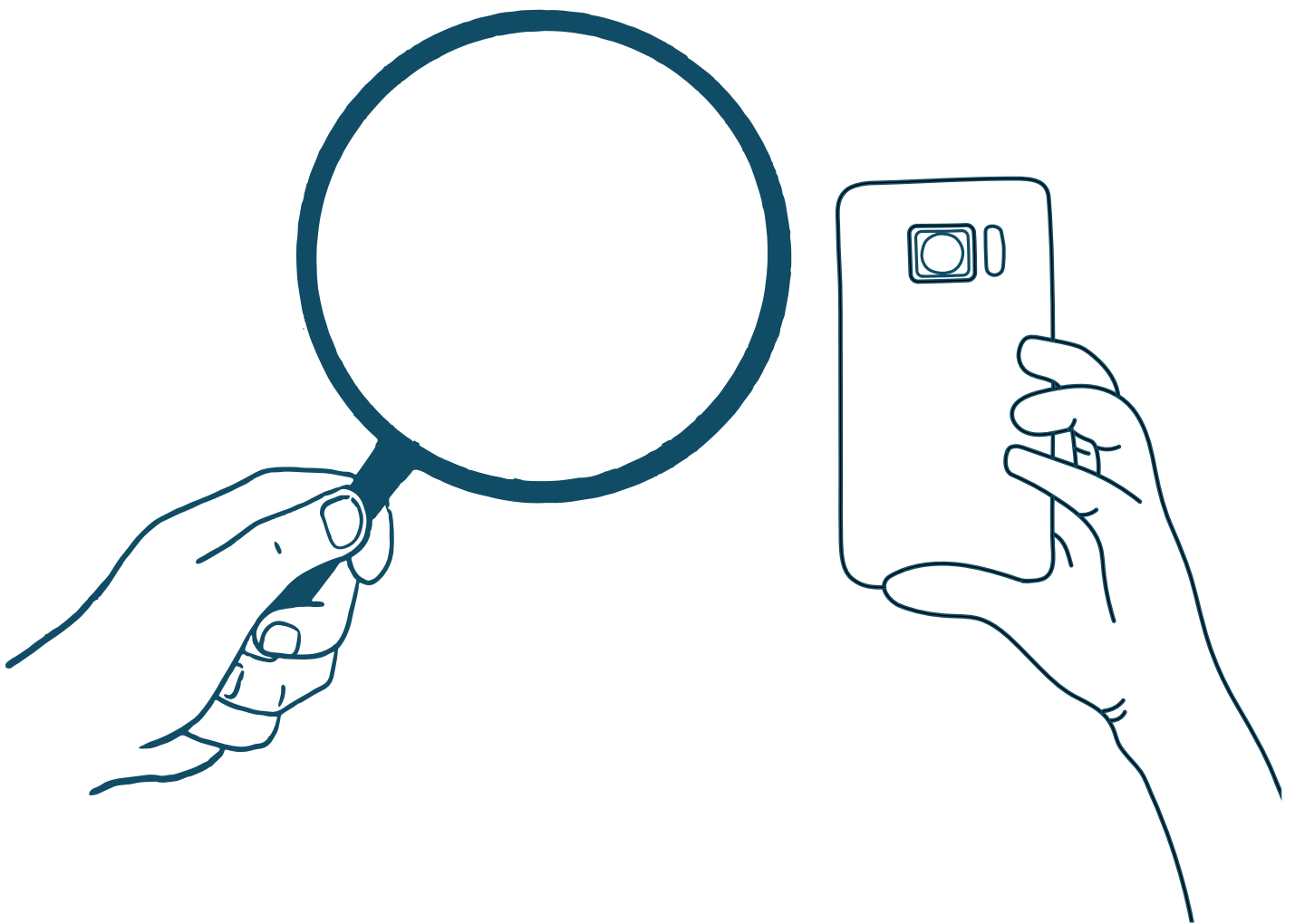
Look at the two images below of a shore bird scene and spot the differences, circle them when you find them. There are 13 to spot!



ACTIVITY 2: 'SIGN SEARCH'

Meet the locals

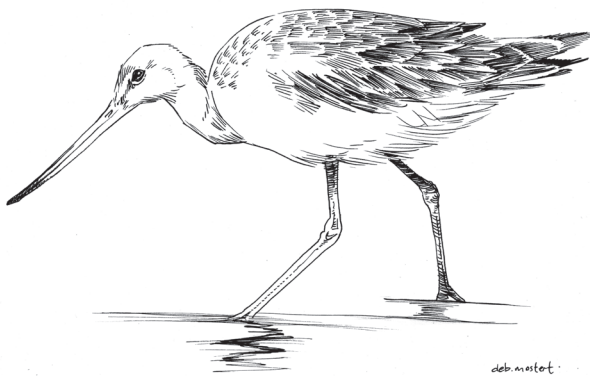
Find and read the *'Meet the locals'* sign and see how many of the birds described you can spot. Take a photo of a bird or other animal that you see along the shoreline.



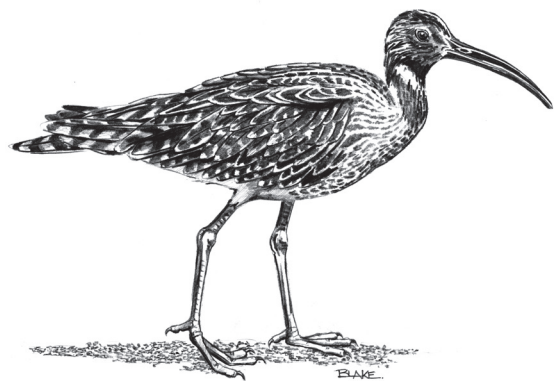
ACTIVITY 3: 'AFTER SIGN SEARCH'

Identify your bird or other animal

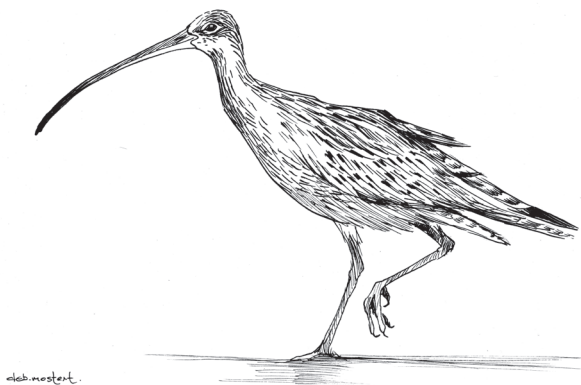
Have a look online at the following websites. You can identify and record the animal that you found!



Bartailed Godwit
(*Limosa lapponica*)



Whimbrel
(*Numenius phaeopus*)



Eastern Curlew
(*Numenius madagascariensis*)

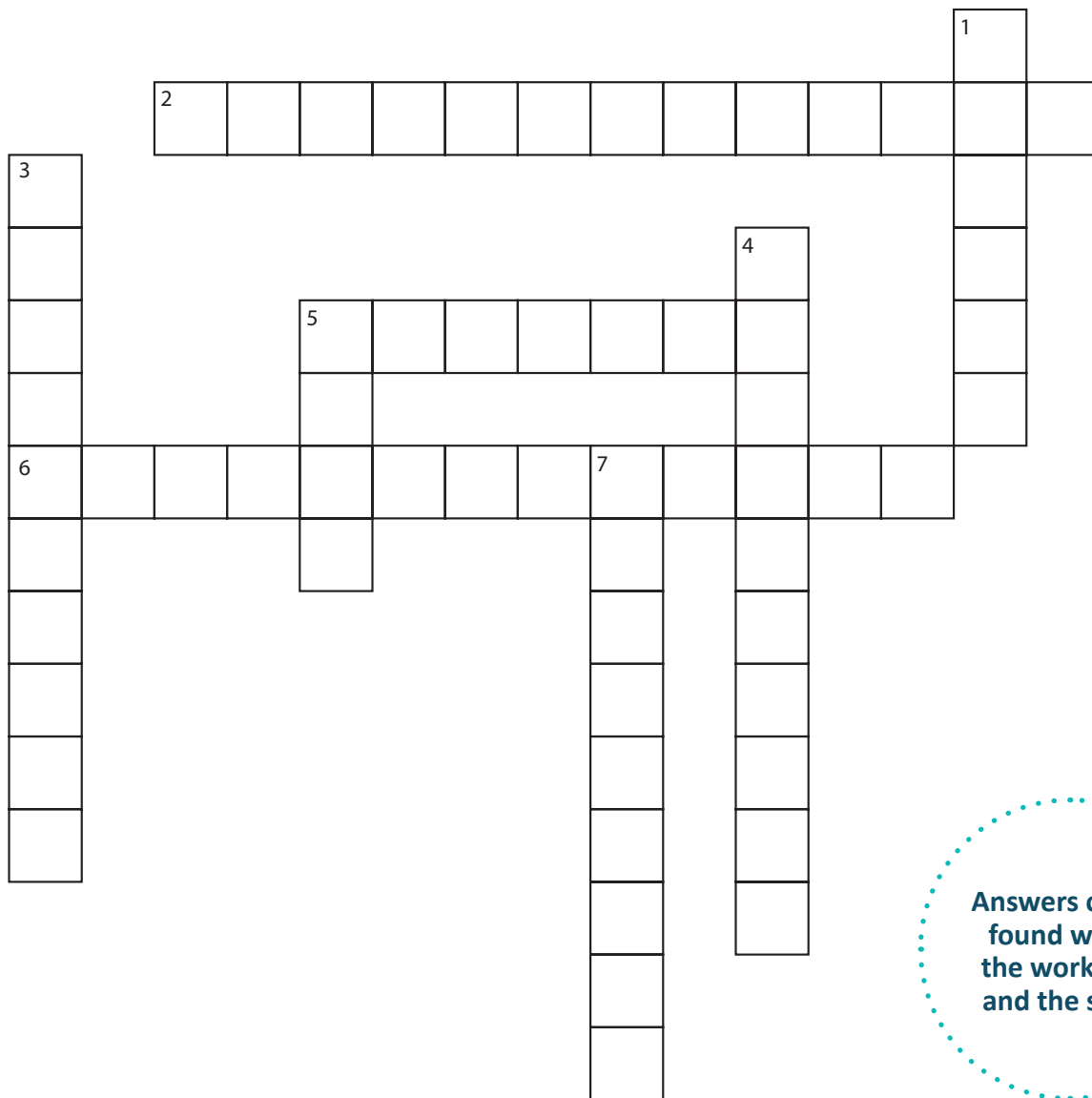


Eastern Osprey
(*Pandion haliaetus*)

ACTIVITY 3: 'AFTER SIGN SEARCH'

Shorebird Crossword

Use the clues below to figure out the crossword answers!



Answers can be found within the workbook and the signs.

ACROSS

- 2 - A bird with a scarlet bill and pinkish legs
- 5 - The colour of the Sooty Oyster Catcher legs
- 6 - A large and graceful fishing hawk

DOWN

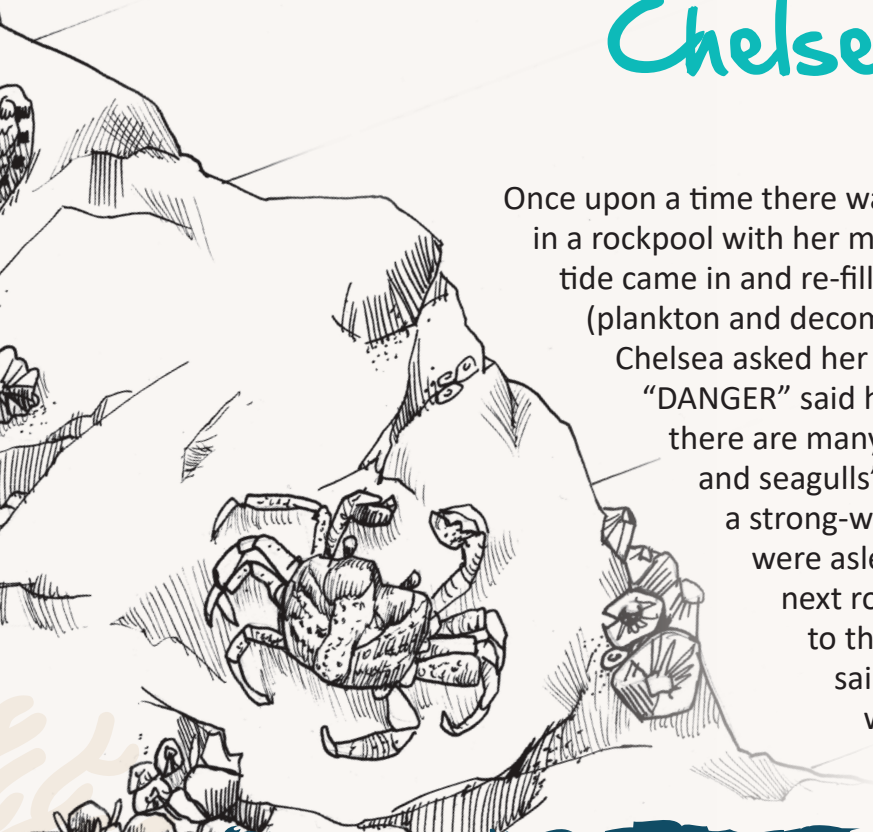
- 1 - What is the status of the Eastern Osprey?
- 3 - What is the status of the Beach Stone Curlew?
- 4 - Type of birds that live by the sea
- 5 - Another name for the Yellow-faced Cormorant
- 7 - The preferred habitat of the Sooty Oyster Catcher

MARINE VALUES **ADVANCED**

CORAL, SEAGRASS MEADOWS, ROCKY SHORE AND MANGROVES

Chelsea the Crab

(*Brachyura*)



Once upon a time there was a baby crab named Chelsea. Chelsea lived in a rockpool with her mum and dad by the seaside. Twice a day the tide came in and re-filled their rockpool with fresh water and food (plankton and decomposing bits of plant and animal). One day Chelsea asked her parents “what is outside of the rockpool?”

“DANGER” said her dad. “Never go outside of the rockpool, there are many creatures that would eat you like hungry fish and seagulls”. “Well, I want to see,” said Chelsea. She was a strong-willed little crab, so she waited until her parents were asleep under their rocks and she went into the next rockpool. There were red tentacle things stuck to the rocks waving at her, so she waved back and said “Hi”. But the red tentacle things just kept waving and didn’t reply. So, she poked one with her nipper and the red tentacles all suddenly shot inside. She looked around and the other red tentacle things were hiding inside themselves too. How rude she thought. Suddenly she realized it was getting light and she better be getting back. She raced across the bare rocks as the tide was low now. A seagull swooped down to grab her but she plopped into her rock pool just in time. Her mum and dad were so worried and were on their way to find her. “Thank goodness you are back!” her dad said. “Now don’t ever do that again, not until you are a big crab that can give a seagull a big nip!” said her mum. “I won’t” said Chelsea, and she meant it. Her own little rock pool didn’t look so boring anymore, she might just stay here.

ACTIVITIES IN THIS BOOKLET

ACTIVITY 1: ‘Before Sign Search’
Help Hermit find his way home maze

ACTIVITY 2: ‘Sign Search’
Find the sign and read about rocky shores, explore the rock pools and get an adult to film you making a presentation about the interesting creatures you find and how important these diverse ecosystems are to nature. Read the adaptations and guess the animals they refer to.

ACTIVITY 3: ‘After Sign Search’
After reading the coral reefs sign ‘A colourful 6,500 year old story’, write a creative story about a character on the coral reef at danger

ACTIVITY 1: 'BEFORE SIGN SEARCH'

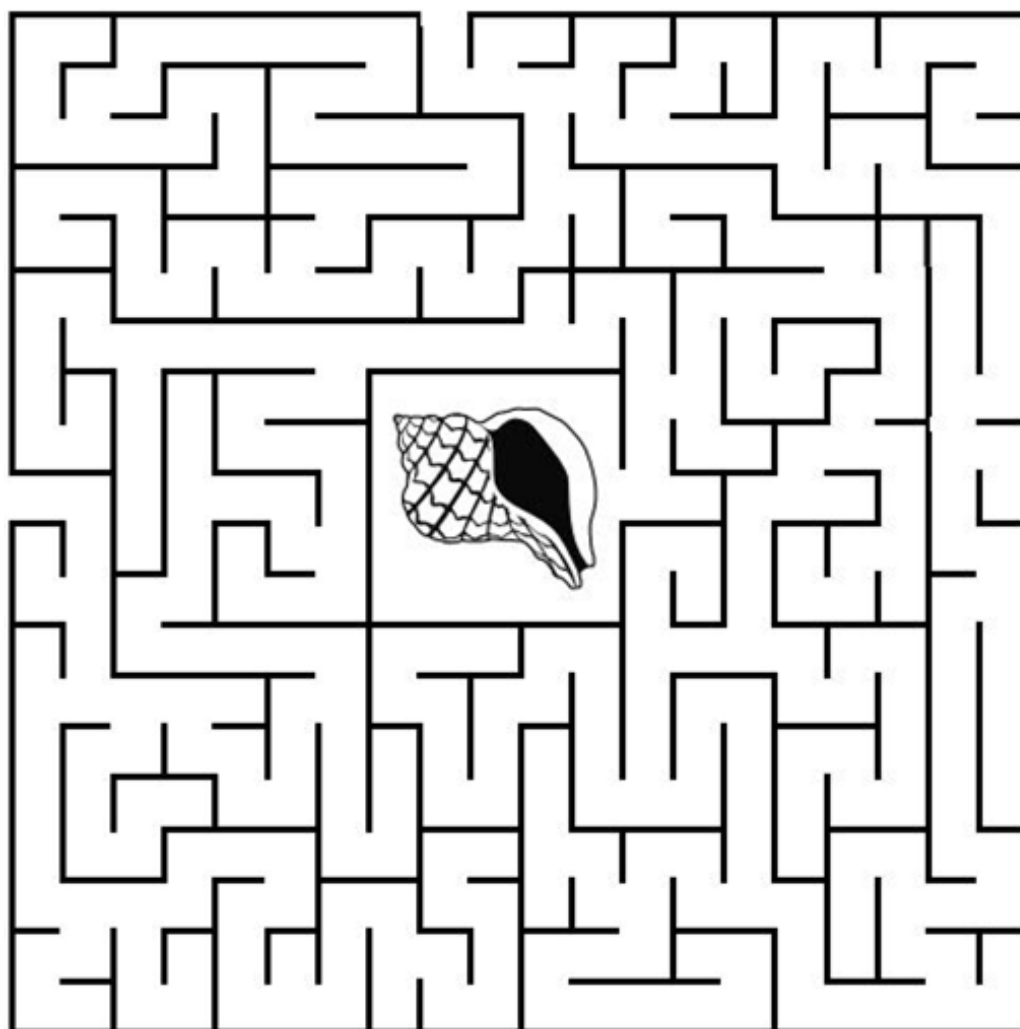
Help Hermit find his way home maze

FOOD AND SHELTER

Seagrass is important because it is food and provides shelter for marine life. Within seagrass meadows, you can find animals such as prawns, crabs, sea stars, sea cucumbers and seahorses. Hermit crabs are also common in seagrass meadows.



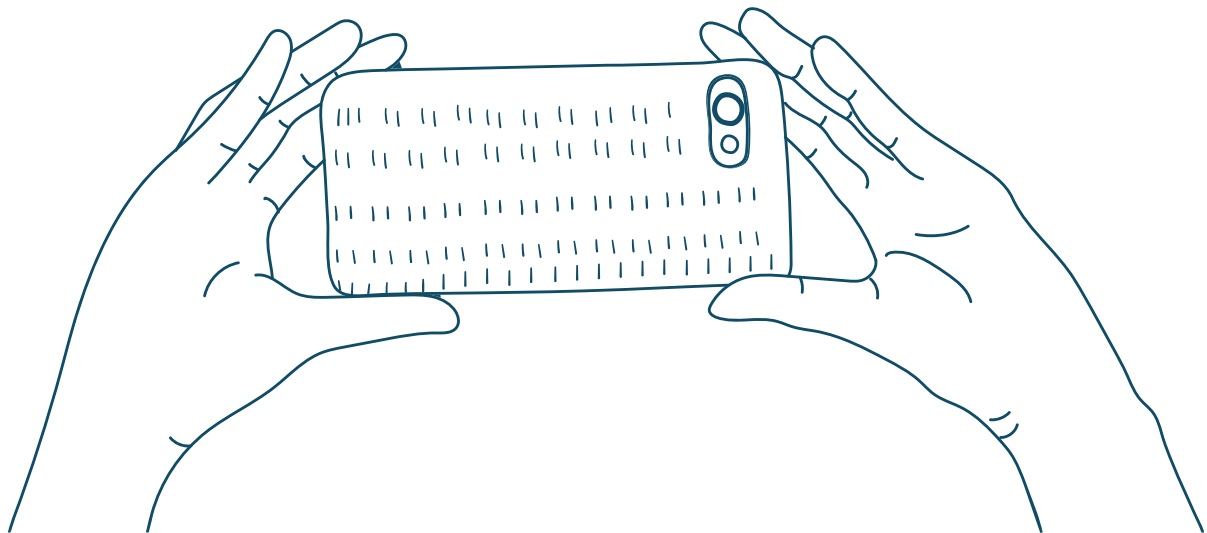
Help the Hermit Crab find a new home



ACTIVITY 2: 'SIGN SEARCH'

Find the Sign!

Find the sign and read about rocky shores, explore the rock pools and get an adult to film you presenting a short film about the interesting creatures you find and how important these diverse ecosystems are to nature.



ACTIVITY 2: 'SIGN SEARCH'

Rocky Shore Organisms

Read the adaptation below and guess which animal it may be. Choose your answer from the animals below and write in the space provided.

ADAPTATION	ANIMAL
Has a strong foot that sticks to the rock	
Spiky arms that wave in the waters movement	
Cement like substance for attachment	
Filter feeders that stay in one spot	
Slug like form that look like a shellless mollusc (soft body)	
Spherical, hard shells that are round and spiny	
Can lock themselves into crevices with their strong spiky legs	

Crab
Limpet
Sea squirts

Sea cucumbers
Sea stars

Oysters or barnacles
Sea urchin

