



Survivor Rocky Shore

Scenario

Every second year, groups from our school monitor our local rocky shores to see how well life is surviving in this harsh environment. It adds to our understanding of the Hauraki Gulf which is so important to the life of our city. This year it's your turn to make a report. Your task is to become the class experts on a particular animal and using skilful parts-whole relationships report on its special features for survival. As part of this you are to form a question about your chosen species that can be investigated at the shore. How is your species a survivor?



Exploratory Environment

Dear Parents

We are about to start a new science Quest called 'Survivor Rocky Shore.' This unit of work has been developed here at Birkdale Intermediate. Our students work in pairs to answer the question posed in the scenario.

They search a multimedia resource called a Quest, listen to video interviews, read articles and look at photographs. The Quest is used to teach the Living World section of the National Science Curriculum. Our students look in depth at 'Investigate and describe special features of common animals which help them stay alive and survive into the next generation.'

The students are being asked to investigate a particular animal and how it survives in the harsh environment of the rocky shore.

Part of this work will include a trip to a local rocky shore to carry out a small science investigation designed by Dr John Walsby, a marine biologist who has helped us design this Quest.

Ways in which you could support your child during this study:

- Come with the class on the rocky shore field trip as a parent helper.
- After the field trip you might like to visit the shore again as a family. Your child could then explain some of the things they have learnt to you or if needed gather more data and photographs for their report. Remember to check tide times, 30 minutes before low tide is best.

Warning - The Internet is not yet a good place to investigate the animals that live on our North Shore rocks. Your child will be able to find information on, say limpets, but this information may not be applicable to the limpets on our shore. Your guidance will be needed. The local library may be a better choice for this study.



Inflated Cushion Star



Quest Awards and Presentations



Online Learning Award

Recognizing creative teachers for their pioneering use of telecommunication networks to provide innovative learning opportunities for school-age students.



Presented at the National Education Computing Conference, New Orleans, United States of America.



Presenting at the 13th International Conference on Thinking June 2007, Norrkoping, Sweden.



Presented at the National Centre for Teaching Thinking's Summer Institute held at Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America.

Yours sincerely

Richard Coote
Principal