



PROJECT SEAGRASS

# HIDE AND SEEK ACTIVITY GUIDE AGES 11-14



# OVERVIEW

This activity guide introduces the topic of hide and seek and the activities allow you to explore the importance of complex environments for marine life.

Within this guide are two quick activities, activity 1 is best for larger groups, whilst activity 2 is better for smaller or quieter ones.

- **Lesson Objective:** to appreciate how a seagrass meadow provides an important fish nursery habitat
- **Curriculum links:** Geography/Science

## LEARNING TIPS

This hide and seek guide compliments Project Seagrass activities in the '**Species hunt**', '**Plant anatomy**' and '**Stakeholder**' guides. Use these activities to help discuss why different animal diversity and abundance may be seen in different habitats.

## INTRODUCTION

Three dimensional environments are hotspots for wildlife! The more **complex** the environment, the more spaces an animal has to hide. Bare areas such as sand on the other hand, offer little protection for animals from **predators** or sneaky places to lay their eggs. Seagrass is considered a great **nursery habitat** for juvenile fish because of this – there are plenty of spaces for young fish to hide and avoid being **prey** for larger predators. The same hiding spaces idea can be applied to kelp forests, coral reefs, or even **terrestrial** forests and grass lands!

## KEY INFORMATION

- Indoor or outdoor activities
- Group activities
- Time - 5 minutes
- Practical

## KEY WORDS

### Prey –

An animal that is hunted or eaten by another animal

### Predator –

An animal which preys on another animal

### Habitat –

The natural home of an animal

### Nursery habitat –

An area where juvenile animals live

### Biodiversity –

The different kinds of animal and plant life in one area

### Terrestrial –

Something on land

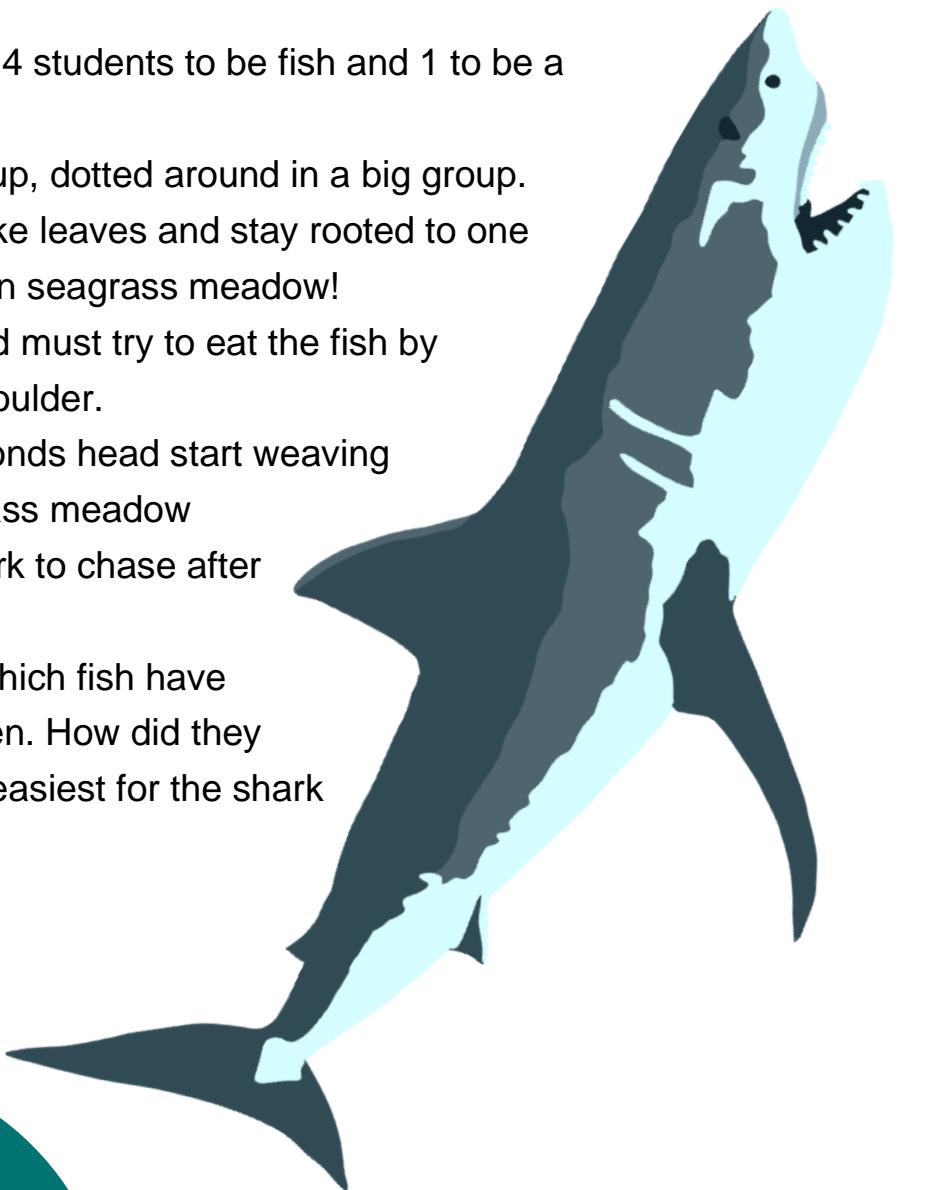
### Marine –

Something in the sea

# ACTIVITY 1:

**HEALTH AND SAFETY -- Run  
carefully**

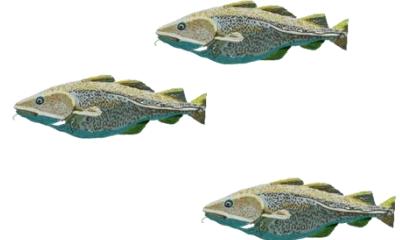
- 1) Clear a large space.
- 2) In a class of 30 choose 4 students to be fish and 1 to be a hungry shark.
- 3) Get everyone to stand up, dotted around in a big group. Chuck arms in the air like leaves and stay rooted to one spot - this is your human seagrass meadow!
- 4) The shark is hungry and must try to eat the fish by tapping them on the shoulder.
- 5) Give the fish a few seconds head start weaving in and out of the seagrass meadow before allowing the shark to chase after them.
- 6) After 30 seconds see which fish have managed not to be eaten. How did they escape? Where was it easiest for the shark to catch the fish?



## FUN FACT!

Seagrass is a nursery habitat for fish such as cod and plaice - our Friday night fish and chip favourites!

- 7) Explain how the seagrass meadow makes it a lot easier to swim away and hide, whereas going on to the bare sand outside of the meadow made it easier for the shark to spot and catch them.

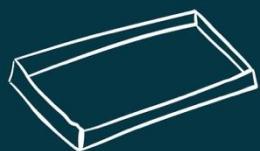


## ACTIVITY 2:

- 1) If using sand, add it to the bottom of each tray. In one of the trays also add the paper strips, this is the 'seagrass', the other tray is a bare seabed.
- 2) Put 30 paperclips in each tray, these are your fish. Remember to attach paperclips on to and all around the seagrass paper.
- 3) Blindfold two students and give them 10 seconds to find as many paperclips as they can.
- 4) It should be much easier for the student on the bare sand to find and eat all of the prey!

### YOU WILL NEED:

2 x trays



Paper cut into strips



60 paper clips



Sand (optional)



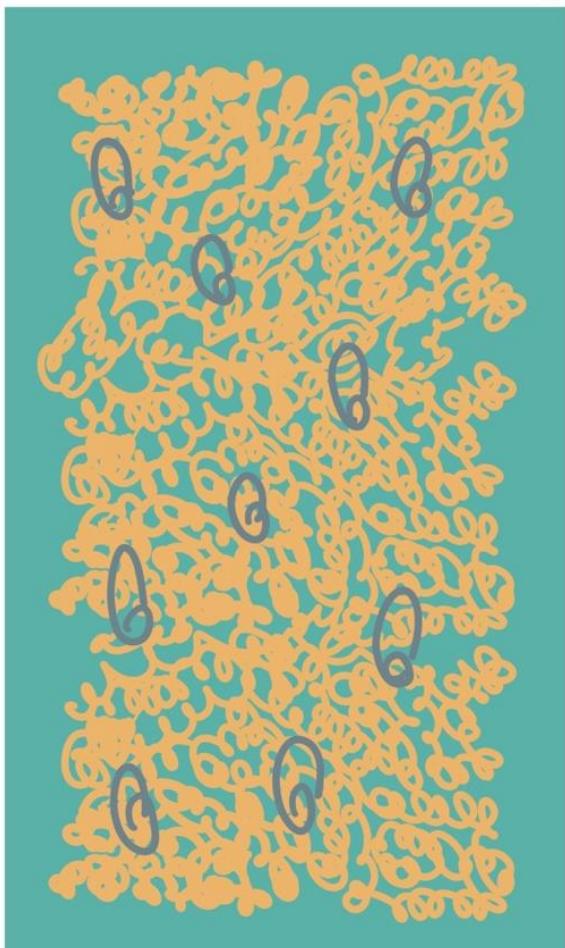
Two blind folds  
(jumpers and scarfs work!)



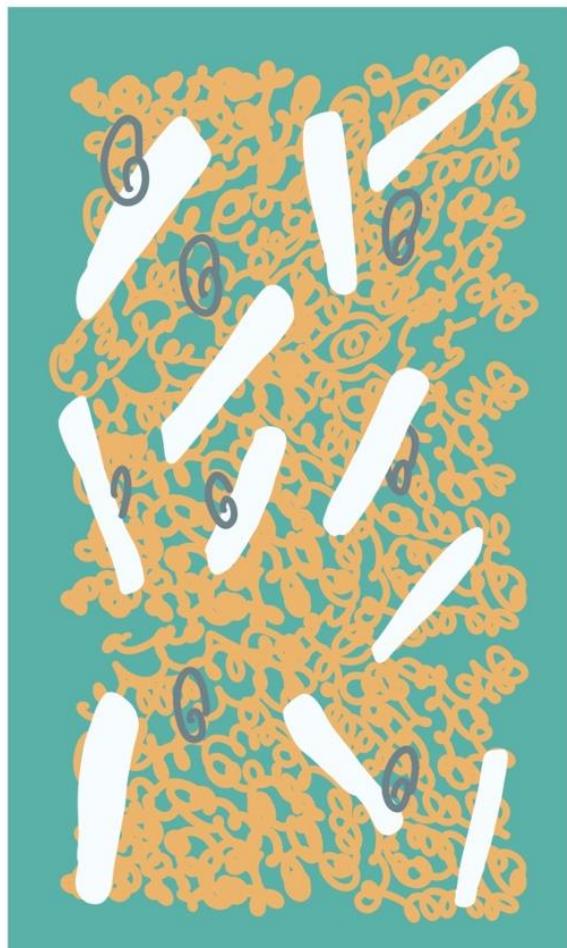
### HEALTH AND SAFETY

Take care whilst blindfolded!

BARE SAND TRAY



SEAGRASS TRAY



## WORK SHEET FOLLOW UP:

After completing either or both activities, write a short story in under 500 words about a day living in a seagrass meadow. You can pick any animal you like - you could even tell it from the seagrass' point of view!