
Future Thinking about Beaches

Questioning

Do your feelings and understanding of this beach change if you write a question mark after every statement in a description of the scene (taken from a tourist brochure or text about the area).

- The region lies in an overlap between two climatic zones?
- The range of habitats found is also diverse?
- The forms and process of erosion of the landscape can be easily observed?
- The spectacular coastal cliffs show mainly erosion?
- The cliff faces display layered beds of sandstone, conglomerate and siltstone which were at the bottom of a marine environment 280-225 million years ago?
- The vegetation cover forms a varied, complex mosaic of plant community types?

Discuss

What methods of field investigation could you use to provide the answers to these questions.

A shadow	A shape	A contrast
A curve	A line	A pattern

Observing nature as art

Find a place where you can sit quietly and observe a scene. Record examples of the features of the scene in the spaces provided. Record each observation with a sketch or a description.

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Now consider the recorded observations.

- Can you link all of the features in one artistic presentation?
- Has the activity affected your perception of this environment?

Be an ecological detective

You are an ecological detective looking closely at the beach. You are looking for (but don't need to collect):

- a living thing that is growing
- something that was once alive
- something that has undergone change
- something that is impossible to count
- something you can't photograph
- a thing that doesn't form a necessary part of the ecosystem
- a natural thing which could be used as a tool.
- thing that might be food for plants and animals
- something that won't be here in 100 years.

Be a poet

View a scene or natural object by yourself and write a cinquain poem of five lines – no rhyming is necessary!

the first line is one word as a title

the second line has two words describing the title

the third line has three words expressing some action

the fourth line has four words telling about some feeling you have about the subject

the fifth line has one word to sum up.

Compare your results with others – did you all write about the same subject?

Contrasts

Contrast what IS with what WAS or MIGHT BE at this spot.

Discuss with your group the following 'scenarios'.

- what happens here if the sea level rises
- if the temperature rises
- if the use of the adjacent area changes
- if the quality of its management increases
- if the quality of its management decreases.