
People Working with Oceans

Level

1-8

Key Questions

How do people earning their living from the ocean?

What are their attitudes to the marine environment?

Key Outcome

Understand some of the work of and attitudes held by people who earn their living from the ocean.

Adapted from Bob Foster-Smith, *Ocean Challenge*, & St. Margaret's School, Brisbane.

What you need

People to interview and talk to about their work

Suitable sites such as fish market, trawler base, dive shop, ship chandlers, ferry terminal, seafood restaurant, yacht club, and Marine Park Centres

What you do

Many people in Australia have skills associated with the sea, and work in it. You should be able to arrange to visit at least one of the sites listed above, and talk to the workers. Some of these may be able to talk to the whole class group at once; then students can interview workers. Prior arrangements are essential if work is to be interrupted. One of the best sequences is to go early to the fish market, attend an auction, then visit a seafood restaurant, or buy some fish and return to school and learn how to gut, scale and cook them.

1. List all the jobs associated with the ocean and coastal areas.
2. Do you know of anyone doing these jobs?
3. Visit to the Fish Market. Find out:
 - where is it located
 - what are the buildings made of
 - what does it smell like
 - is it noisy
 - is it messy
 - what is the daily life of the people
 - do they have to get up early in the morning?
 - what sort of work are they doing
 - what types of fish do you see
 - what other sea creatures, for example, squid, shell fish, prawns, etc.?
4. What happens when the fish are purchased.
 - Where do they go?
 - How are they packed?

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5. Back in the classroom, turn your notes into a Place Profile Poster.

- Work in small groups and use a large piece of paper.
- Draw some of your impressions.
- Draw, or find an illustration of a fish, some of the jobs being done, and what finally happens to the fish.

6. It may be possible to interview a person on site, say down on the seashore, or at a trawling wharf, or someone may come to the class for a class interview. If you are interviewing someone, draw up your own questions. You could ask:

- What does the person like best about working in the sea?
- What do they like least?
- What is the most exciting thing they do?
- Is special training required for this work?
- What do they consider are the beautiful things about the sea?
- Are they worried about the future for their work?
- Is their work threatened by demands of others about the sea (e.g. to restrict catches of fish)?

After the interview, you could sum up your findings in a Person Profile as though you were going to publish a short article about the work in a magazine or local newspaper. Give your story a title which sums up what you have found.