



Sightings activity

Summary information

Age range:	7 - 16
Curriculum Links:	Science, ICT, English
Time needed:	40 minutes
Group size:	Pairs
Setting:	Indoors
Learning Cycle:	Building Knowledge
Key vocabulary:	Species, identification



Sustainable learning outcomes:

- To understand how the health of different species can be used to monitor the health of a habitat
- To understand that science plays an important role in protecting the environment

Resources

Internet access,

Materials to mask parts of the screen e.g. paper & tape or blu-tac.

Procedure

Introduction (whole class)

- Explain that organisations like the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust use information about sightings of marine wildlife from fishermen and members of the public to help them monitor the health of the marine environment.
- Discuss:
 - Why is it important to know what species are found in an area?
 - Why might it be important to know that 3 killer whales were spotted by HWDT supporters in 2005, 9 in 2007 and 27 in 2008?
 - Why is it important that the species is identified accurately?

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Paired work

- Task:
 - Challenge another pair to identify one of the marine species listed in the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust identification guide:
<http://www.whaledolphintrust.co.uk/sightings-identification-tips.asp>
- What you need to do:
- Use the www.arkive.org website to select a pair of videos or images of different species.
 - Mask parts of the screen to hide any written information that is displayed; name the species you want them to identify and then show them the videos or images. For example: Which of these two videos shows the basking shark?
www.arkive.org/great-white-shark/carcharodon-carcharias/video-12.html
www.arkive.org/basking-shark/cetorhinus-maximus/video-06.html

Plenary (whole class)

- Watch the video about the HWDT: www.whaledolphintrust.co.uk/video.asp
- Discuss:
 - What factors make it difficult to identify marine wildlife?
 - What would you do to help you identify these creatures?

Extension

Write a descriptive account of one of the marine species that are monitored by the HWDT.

Evaluation

‘Every year, 10 million people travel the world in search of whales’ – HWDT film.

- Discuss this fact with a partner:
 - Is this good for whales?
 - How might this harm the whales or their habitat?
 - What can be done to protect the interests of the whales and those people who want to see them?