

Pāpaka Power

Marine Education Programme for Years 4-8

Location: NZ Marine Studies Centre, 185 Hatchery Road, Portobello, Dunedin

Programme Description

This programme investigates the incredible world of ngā pāpaka | crabs!

Students will discover the structural and behavioural adaptations of crabs as well as the various habitats they live in. Through hands-on activities in the lab, and games, we will look closely into what makes different species of crabs different, how these differences benefit them, and all of the ways that crabs behave to survive in their environments.

Extension: A seashore visit to look at the zonation of intertidal crab species can also be added to the programme if the tide is suitable.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Be able to describe the unique adaptations that some of the local marine creatures have to survive.
- Be able to explain what habitats, and structural and behavioural adaptations are, and apply these to real life scenarios.
- Gain an appreciation of marine creatures, the marine environment, and marine science.

Curriculum Links

Nature of Science (NoS): Understanding about Science, Investigating in Science, Communicating in Science, Participating and Contributing.

Science: Living World - Life processes, Ecology, and Evolution.

This programme can be adapted to fit the specific needs of your students, just talk to one of our educators upon booking about customising the itinerary and/or delivery for your class.

Programme Length: 2 hours

Programme Cost: \$9.00 per student (GST excl.), additional hours \$4.50 per student per hour.

Extra Information

As we will be working in a University of Otago Laboratory, students must wear closed toed shoes (no sandals or crocs).

Bring suitable clothing for outdoors - rain or shine (e.g. hats, sunscreen, or warm jackets).

RAMs forms are available on request.

Example Itinerary

10 min introductory presentation covering:

- Introduction to the NZMSC, H&S, introduction to crabs, habitats and adaptations

40 min exploration of the NZMSC

- Looking for different creatures in the aquarium and touch tanks
- Learning about their different adaptations and habitats

40 min Crab Lab

- Looking up close at different crab species, investigating their various structural adaptations, why they have them and where they live - how are these all connected?
- Students fill in a worksheet by gathering information around them.
- "Build-a-crab" activity, thinking about the connections between structural adaptations and habitats

20 min Crab Game

- Thinking about behavioural adaptations and the different ways crabs act to survive in their always changing environment - students act as crabs and are presented with different scenarios which they have to try survive

10 min wrap up

Option to have morning tea or lunch at the NZMSC before or after the programme.

Resources available to support the programme can be found at www.marine.ac.nz and mm2.net.nz

Ideas for learning in class before your visit:

- Look at the NZMSC Rocky Shore Guides and become familiar with identifying some of the different creatures you may see on your visit.
- Introduce students to the concepts of habitats, adaptations and zonation.

Ideas for learning in class after your visit:

- Inquiry studies into different species of crabs.
- Brainstorm ways that we can help protect the life on our local shores, take action around your school and home. You could even do a clean up of your local environment!

NZMSC Contact

Hannah Drury, NZMSC Primary and Early Childhood Educator

Email: hannah.drury@otago.ac.nz

Phone: 03 479 5843



The NZ Marine Studies Centre is part of the Marine Science Department, University of Otago.
This programme is supported by the Ministry of Education's EOTC service.

See www.marine.ac.nz for more programmes and resources.