

A habitat is the area where an organism or group of organisms live and breed. One habitat will be distinct from another due to its particular environmental conditions.

New Zealand's marine environment is incredibly diverse and made up of a large number of habitats. Important marine habitats are found in estuaries, fiords and on the continental shelf.

This worksheet offers a suggested pathway through Science Learning Hub education resources and connects to relevant programmes offered by NZ Marine Studies Centre. Click on the links below to create your own personalised teaching unit. Feel free to use this material in any combination or order.

Images from www.sciencelearn.org.nz

Exploring the theme

Focus question: *These photos show different marine habitats. What makes one habitat different to another?*



- www.sciencelearn.org.nz/Contexts/Life-in-the-Sea/Sci-Media/Images/Candida-Savage-diving
- www.sciencelearn.org.nz/Contexts/The-Noisy-Reef/Sci-Media/Images/Kelp
- www.sciencelearn.org.nz/Science-Stories/Research-Voyage-to-Antarctica/Sci-Media/Images/Antarctic-ice-cod
- www.sciencelearn.org.nz/Contexts/Life-in-the-Sea/Sci-Media/Images/Black-coral

Activities – use these activities to expand on the focus question:

- Deep ocean dive www.otago.ac.nz/marinestudies/resources/download/DeepSeaGame.pdf

Understanding the theme

Focus question: *Describe some key features of an estuary. Why do you think they are an important marine habitat?*

- Key terms > See ecosystem, habitat, land-use change and water column www.sciencelearn.org.nz/Contexts/Life-in-the-Sea/Key-Terms
- Info sheet > Marine habitats www.sciencelearn.org.nz/Contexts/Life-in-the-Sea/Science-Ideas-and-Concepts/Marine-habitats

This resource supports NZC Science Level 3/4

NATURE OF SCIENCE: UNDERSTANDING ABOUT SCIENCE: Appreciate that science is a way of explaining the world and that science knowledge changes over time.

- LIVING WORLD: ECOLOGY: Explain how living things are suited to their particular habitat and how they respond to environmental changes, both natural and human induced.
- LIVING WORLD: LIFE PROCESSES: Recognise that there are life processes common to all living things and that these occur in different ways.

Contact details

The New Zealand Marine Studies Centre, University of Otago, offers marine education programmes and resources for primary and secondary schools in southern New Zealand.

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The Science Learning Hub provides resources for teachers for school years 5-10. It is developed by educators and teachers in collaboration with New Zealand scientists and funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation (MSI).

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