

Lower Secondary

excursion activity pack



THE AQUARIUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Leeuwin Current

The Leeuwin current is the longest continuous coastal current system in the world. It originates near Western Australia's North West Cape and flows southward towards Cape Leeuwin before turning eastwards into the Great Australian Bight. Along your journey through AQWA today you will trace the movement of the Leeuwin current from the Great Southern region to its origin in the Far North, and find examples of the role the current plays in the distribution of marine life along the coastline of Western Australia.

***What impact does the Leeuwin current have on the marine life of Western Australia?
What type of marine life is affected?***

Great Southern - Augusta

Type of marine life: _____

Effect of Leeuwin Current: _____

Type of marine life: _____

Effect of Leeuwin Current: _____

Shipwreck Coast - Kirki Oil Spill

Type of marine life: _____

Effect of Leeuwin Current: _____

Marmion Marine Park - Marine Arc

Type of marine life: _____

Effect of Leeuwin current: _____

In general, how does the Leeuwin current contribute to the diversity of marine life found off Perth? _____





Sand

Not only is sand made up of ancient coral reefs, old shells, eroded rocks and the crushed up skeletons of crustacean but it is alive with micro organisms and home to a multitude of marine life. Burrowing is a common strategy used by animals to both hide and resist the pressure of ocean currents. On your journey along the coastline of Western Australia look out for information on the following animals and write down how each of them interacts with the sand.

Perth Coast - Alkimos

Slipper Lobster: _____

Perth Coast - Scarborough

Blackspot Goatfish: _____

Perth Coast - Cockburn Sound

Snake Eel: _____

Perth Coast - Cockburn Sound

Tube Anemone: _____

Far North - Mermaid Reef

Seacucumber: _____

Far North - Coral Lagoon

Dwarf Hawkfish: _____

Marmion Marine Park - Mettam's Touch Pool

Western Stingaree: _____

Marmion Marine Park - Stingray Bay

Stingrays: _____

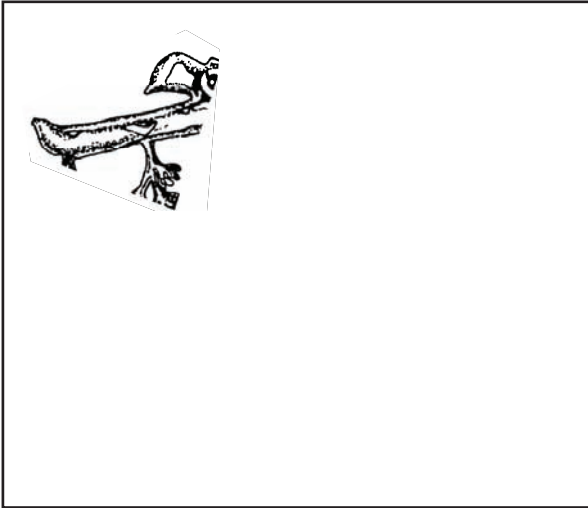




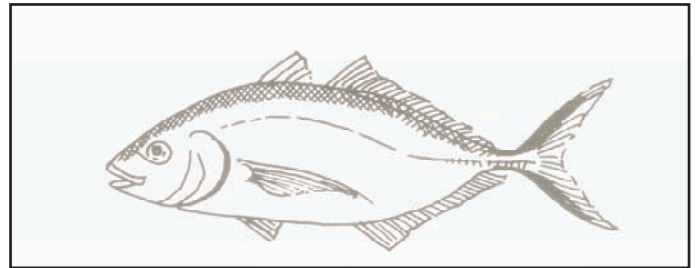
Fish Shapes

Not all fish look the same!

Complete the picture of a Seadragon and then compare its fins and body shape to that of the Skipjack Trevally.



Seadragon



Skipjack Trevally

List some of the major differences between the shapes of the two fish

- _____
- _____
- _____

Which fish do you think could swim the fastest and why?

What is the importance of the Seadragon's leafy appendages?





Where am I?

Can you use the clues below to identify what AQWA region you are in?

- The coastal landscapes are as ancient as the earth itself.
- Some of the animals that inhabit this region can reach over 7m in size!
- Animals lie motionless on the bottom ready to ambush any passing prey.

I'm in AQWA's _____ region.

This region covers the latitudes of _____ to _____ ° South

- Huge granite shores have been shaped by massive waves from the icy waters of Antarctica.
- Gardens of kelp flow back and forth across granite rocks
- Animals cling to jetty pylons and fish bury themselves in the sand below

I'm in AQWA's _____ region.

This region covers the latitudes of _____ to _____ ° South

- In these temperate waters you can find limestone reefs which have both supported and threatened life.
- Cold water from Antarctica mixes with warm water brought down from the tropics by the Leeuwin Current.
- Animals may hover above the seafloor

I'm in AQWA's _____ region.

This region covers the latitudes of _____ to _____ ° South

- Nutrients from the land travel out the river and mix with the salt water of the Indian Ocean creating a rich region of marine life.
- The reefs of today are often the submerged sand dunes of yester year.
- Animals hide in caves or drift with the ocean currents

I'm in AQWA's _____ region.

This region covers the latitudes of _____ to _____ ° South

