

Kelp the Helper

Objective: Students will research kelp and list and describe how it is beneficial to the ocean and to humankind through making a display and an oral report.

Age: Adaptable for 3rd through 12th grades

Time Allowance: It depends on how in depth you want them to go – as short as two time periods or as long as a week's worth.

Materials: Access to information on kelp via the internet, reference books; materials for the display (butcher paper, markers, construction paper, etc.)

Instruction:

1. Divide the class into groups of three or four. Assign each group a topic having to do with kelp, such as:
 - anatomy
 - algin
 - predators
 - growth process
 - reproductive process
 - harvesting of kelp
 - kelp as an ecosystem for other animals
 - kelp as a source of food and other products for our use
2. Have each group do its research in the time allotted by you, either in or out of class.
3. Each group writes up a written report that will be made orally.
4. Each group creates a visual display to show the class that will be displayed in class later.
5. Have the groups make their presentation to the class.

Evaluation/Assessment:

Create a 3 or 4 point rubric that can be used to evaluate the students on their displays as well as their oral reports. You may want to access those separately.

For example, for the oral report:

4 – Did excellent research on the topic, reported it very well to the class in his/her own words

3 – Did good research on the topic, reported it well to the class mostly in his/her own words

2 – Did adequate research on the topic, reported it adequately to the class in some of his/her own words

1 – Did little research on the topic, reported it poorly to the class in very few if any of his/her own words

0 – Did not do the assignment