

RESOURCE LIBRARY
ACTIVITY : 20 MINS

Healthy Beaches

Students describe their experiences with beaches, compare and contrast photographs of beaches, and brainstorm how humans living near the ocean affect ocean plants and animals.

GRADES

K, 1, 2

SUBJECTS

Geography, Human Geography

CONTENTS

4 Images

OVERVIEW

Students describe their experiences with beaches, compare and contrast photographs of beaches, and brainstorm how humans living near the ocean affect ocean plants and animals.

For the complete activity with media resources, visit:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/healthy-beaches/>

DIRECTIONS

1. Activate students' prior knowledge.

Have a whole-class discussion about students' experiences with the ocean and beaches. Ask:

- *Have you ever been to a beach? If so, what was it like?*
- *Was the beach crowded or empty? How many people were there?*
- *How many buildings were there?*
- *What animals did you see?*
- *What plants did you see?*

2. Have students compare and contrast photographs of beaches.

Show students the photos of beaches—two photos of national seashores and two of beach resorts. Ask:

- *How are these the same?*
- *How are they different?*
- *Which one looks most like beaches you have been to?*
- *Which one looks most like a place where people would live or go on vacation?*
- *Which one looks like it would have the most animals?*

3. Have students brainstorm how people living near the ocean affect ocean animals and plants.

Prompt students to think about how people affect the environment, including through trash, pollution, noise, fishing, too much light, too many buildings, and too many boats. Write students' ideas on the board.

OBJECTIVES

Subjects & Disciplines

Geography

- Human Geography

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- describe their own experiences at the beach
- compare and contrast photographs of two beaches
- brainstorm how humans living near beaches affect ocean plants and animals

Teaching Approach

- Learning-for-use

Teaching Methods

- Brainstorming
- Discussions
- Visual instruction

Skills Summary

This activity targets the following skills:

- Critical Thinking Skills
 - Understanding
- Geographic Skills
 - Acquiring Geographic Information

National Standards, Principles, and Practices

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS

- Standard 14:

How human actions modify the physical environment

Preparation

What You'll Need

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

- Internet Access: Optional
- Tech Setup: 1 computer per classroom, Projector

PHYSICAL SPACE

- Classroom

GROUPING

- Large-group instruction

BACKGROUND & VOCABULARY

Background Information

Many people live near beaches. Others visit beaches for fun. All of these people have an effect on the health of the beaches—both on land and in the water.

Prior Knowledge

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Recommended Prior Activities

- [How People Affect Ocean Animals and Plants](#)
- [Why People Live Near Coasts](#)

Vocabulary

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
beach	noun	narrow strip of land that lies along a body of water.
ocean	noun	large body of salt water that covers most of the Earth.

For Further Exploration

Websites

- [EPA: Beaches](#)
- [EPA: Beach Kids!](#)

FUNDER



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