

Marine life under and around the pier



The definition of marine life:

Marine life, sea life, or ocean life are the plants, animals, and other organisms that live in the salt water of the sea or ocean, or the brackish water of coastal estuaries.

Animals you are likely to see under the pier:

- Fish
- crustaceans
- invertebrates
- molluscs
- echinoids
- coral
- zooplankton
- mammals

(See Marine life sheet (2) for examples)

1. Can you give a definition of each of the eight types of marine sea creatures mentioned above?

Marine plants you are likely to see under the pier include:

- seagrasses
- algae
- seaweed
- phytoplankton.

(See Marine life sheet (3) for examples)

2. Can you give a definition of each of the four types of marine plants mentioned above?

What is the importance of having all these creatures and plants in the sea?

Follow the below links for information on this question:

Food chain: What is a food chain? - BBC Bitesize


Ecosystems: Ecosystems - Ecosystems - National 5 Biology Revision - BBC Bitesize

See also: 'Food web game' worksheet on Swanage Pier Trust website, Learning resources

What are the threats to the marine life?

Some of the main threats to marine life are from plastics, pollution of the seas, overfishing, human interference, habitat destruction from pollution, littering, over population and boats moorings.

Design a poster

3. **How might each of these be a threat to the marine life around the pier?**
 4. **Can you design a poster to raise people's awareness of ocean pollution and suggest three things that they might do that could help to combat this in their everyday lives?**
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Here are some resources that might help you:

Unsustainable fishing:

www.mcsuk.org/ocean-emergency/climate-change
www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/

Ocean pollution:

Surfers Against Sewage | Environmental charity tackling plastic pollution
(sas.org.uk)

www.mcsuk.org/ocean-emergency/ocean-pollution/

Climate change:

www.mcsuk.org/ocean-emergency/climate-change/

5. Looking at the ‘good fish guide’ on the marine conservation society website (mcsuk.org) make a list of some of the best fish and shellfish in terms of sustainable fishing, that people should eat.

6. Can you also list some of the fish that people should not be eating?

How can you help our oceans to keep healthy?

- Join Seasearch (www.seasearch.org.uk) online and get involved in one of their activities or campaigns, such as beach cleaning, campaigning or litter picking on and around the beach.
- Display your posters in local shops or around your school to inform people.
- Get involved. Find out if there is a local environmental group near to you that you can join.
- Here are some local ones to Swanage: Planet Purbeck, Sustainable Swanage, Surfers again sewage, Litter free Coast and Sea, Dorset Wildlife Trust.