

## INTRODUCTION

Downloadable material on the NMA Distance Learning Project has been designed specifically to support science teaching. Consistent with the educational remit of the Aquarium, the material sets out to inform about issues in the marine environment. However, at the same time, we have ensured that material is consistent with the National Curriculum, and that it can be used in teaching core elements of the science syllabus.

The material on the project consists of 'front-of-class' teaching materials and activities for students. The teaching materials are all in the form of PowerPoint™ slide sets, using high quality photographs and graphics along with explanatory text. You can find out more about the slides, and other parts of the material, in a separate *Users' Guide*.

Activities for students consist of on-screen quizzes, printable worksheets. All of these are designed to complement the slides, although some of the activities could be used on their own. Quizzes are interactive, using animation techniques to reinforce knowledge.

All of these resources are provided free for educational use. Finally, please note that the NMA Distance Learning Project has a place for your ideas and resources. The Reference Material section is there to receive input from schools, in the form of new material, web-links, or anything else (within reason!)

## WHAT'S IN THE DLP MATERIAL FOR KEY STAGE 1?

The science content on the DLP site is divided into three modules. There is a detailed description of what is presented in each module in separate Teachers' Notes for each module. What follows is simply an overview and provides an opportunity to identify the cross-linkage between modules. There are also separate notes about using the resources in cross-curricular projects at Key Stage 1.

Throughout the design of this material, we have sought to challenge students. This means that we often work close to the edges of Key Stages in the National Curriculum, providing material that takes ideas a little bit further than you might find in textbooks and other resources. We are also working with some unfamiliar plants and animals, living in an unfamiliar habitat. However, we have been especially careful with resources for primary schools to anchor the material to familiar subjects. For instance, treatment of food chains starts with the familiar grass-rabbit-fox illustration, then later moves out into the ocean. Throughout the material, we try to highlight both similarities and differences between the land and ocean. It is often the differences that help us to understand both environments.

## **Module 1: Biodiversity & Adaptations**

This module is concerned with the variety of living things in the ocean, and how they are fitted to their environment. We have concentrated on introducing the different types of plants and animals in the oceans, and their habitats. We provide a special focus on coral reefs, as an example of a rich and spectacular habitat.

Students can test their knowledge with quizzes and worksheets, exploring habitats and sorting plants from animals. If those don't stretch them enough, you can always try Key Stage 2.

## **Module 2: Ecosystems & Food Webs**

This module looks at the way that ecosystems work. The material is based on simple food chains, with emphasis on the importance of plant producers. Teaching material covers how plants grow and how food chains are built. Activities focus on food chains, introducing the basic structure and terminology.

## **Module 3: Exploitation & Conservation**

In this module, we demonstrate the various ways in which we use the ocean, and develop a simple scenario of sustainability based on fishing. The material, quiz and worksheet are based on the same graphics, so that students will work with familiar images.

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