



# Survival

## Critical Ecological Concepts

- Living things depend on other living things and on non-living things such as water, waves, and a suitable temperature, for their survival.
- Living things have adaptations such as structures and behaviours that enable them to live in their particular habitat.
- Groups of certain kinds of animals work together or with other kinds of animals in ways that help survival, for example, when foraging or hunting or for protection.
- Animals in a marine environment require a place to live (habitat), a source of food, a supply of oxygen and a way to escape predators.
- Living things reproduce in order for their kind to survive.
- Non-living (abiotic) things are the water, rocks, sand, dissolved gases and aspects of the weather such as wind and rain.
- Non-living (abiotic) things may assist the survival of organisms by providing a habitat, or protection from predators.
- Changes to habitats may put the survival of organisms at risk.

## Strategic Questions

- What are the most important needs of sea creatures?
- How would seaweeds or sea creatures be affected if they are removed from the marine environment?
- Some creatures are hard to find. Why is this so?
- How do sea creatures protect themselves?
- How do shape, colour and speed of movement help animals to survive?
- Why do creatures camouflage themselves?
- What special body parts do sea creatures have to protect them, to survive in their environment, to find food, to reproduce and to move?
- Do seaweeds and algae have specialized parts, which help to protect them, to survive in their environment, to make food and to reproduce?
- What is the function of a skeleton in a barnacle, sponge or fish?
- What is the relationship between the structure of a living thing (eg. A holdfast on kelp? / a shell on a snail?) and survival?
- How does light trapped by the cells of plant like marine organisms assist other creatures to survive?
- Choose three animals or plants from the [photo gallery](#) and research their different adaptations to survive in their habitats.
- Find out what you can do when visiting the coast or Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary to look after the animals and plants that are there.
- Create a poster to encourage people to look after the animals and plants of the coast.