



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Classroom Activity - Discovery cards (Grade 1 – 6)

Overview: This activity promotes enquiry-based learning, whereby students devise questions themselves, and are left to discover the answers, to either confirm or refute what was expected. Enabling students to devise their own questions and then find the answers will challenge their expectations of a particular habitat. Before introducing the class to saltmarsh, or before taking a field excursion such as the Derwent Estuary Program *Lauderdale Saltmarsh Discovery Trail*, undertake this classroom activity. The activity is simple, write questions about the habitat to be visited, revisit them in the field or during web-based research, and then collate results back in the classroom to see if they found the answers.

Were answers contrary to what they expected?

Task: Ask students to write questions about the habitat to be visited. Perhaps prompt some lines of enquiry, such as: types of vegetation and animals; major predator-prey relationships; pristineness or naturalness of local sites, major types of damage or impact; abundance of animals in this habitat; effect of sea level rise or a warming climate; and types of recreational activity. Students can come up with their own questions, as well as some major class-based questions. Ask students to keep these questions in mind and see if they can find out the answer during the excursion, or during web research. Revisit them afterwards to see if they found the answers.