

Mangrove Treasurehunt

Level

Can be tailored to suit students at upper primary, years 7-10 or 11-12
Assessment tasks can be provided if required

Location

Cannonvale foreshore
Tide dependant

Excursion Synopsis

Students use keys and field guides to identify as many mangrove species as possible along a belt transect from the shore to the water's edge.

Adaptations mangrove species have evolved to survive the marine environment are identified and discussed.

The position of each species along the transect is examined and related to environmental conditions.

The value of mangrove habitats is discussed and possible human impacts are identified.

For Senior Biology Teachers

This activity can be tailored to meet the criteria set out in the QSA curriculum for learning experiences:

Evolution and Diversity

'Visiting a natural environment to observe species diversity'

'Select a variety of plants/ animals from a particular environment and determine structural, physiological and behavioural adaptations that allow these organisms to survive in their environment'

Theory into practice

'Techniques for identifying organisms e.g. keys and field guides'

'Sampling techniques: e.g. transects'

It provides 3 hours of field study in a natural ecosystem. Students employ scientific sampling methods (belt transects) and the use of keys and field guides to examine species diversity and evolutionary adaptations in a mangrove forest.