



WHAT ARE MANGROVES?

Objectives: Students will learn about mangroves (as trees and ecosystems), where they can be found, and how they have adapted to surviving along rivers and coastal environments.

Suggested discussions for video:

1. What are the conditions that make it challenging to survive in a mangrove environment?
2. How are mangroves different from other forests, such as those that we see in our neighbourhood parks?
3. Are there mangroves in Singapore? Where can we find them?

Purpose of this activity:

Put your students' understanding to the test by challenging them to create a visual story about mangroves that they can share with their family and friends! This activity would require them to consider what would make their story appeal to their audience, and what information would be suitable to present.

Tips for using the Activity

Step 1: Choose your topic.

What do you want to share? There is so much to learn about mangroves. Narrow down to one or two topics that you are curious about. Jot down some interesting facts and questions you will need to answer to tell your story about mangroves.

Some ideas: where mangroves can be found and why; or why they look the way they do; or why some kinds of plants and animals can live there but not others.



Guiding Questions

- What interested you most in the video?
- What unanswered questions do you have about mangroves?



Tips

- Good storytelling needs to have information that is exciting, current, and relevant to the audience.
- It can be hard to cut down on information later on, so try to focus on just one topic for this story.





Step 2: Choose your audience.

Who do you want to share your visual story with? Once you've figured out what you want to share, think about who you want to talk to about mangroves.

Your audience may determine what facts you share, or how you share those stories about mangroves. People belong to many different social networks, such as virtual ones on TikTok or Instagram, or physical ones like school clubs or community centres.



Guiding Questions

- Who can you talk to about this topic?
- Where does your target audience consume media?



Tips

- The best stories are relatable to the audience.
- Your choice of words should cater to your audience's age range, language proficiency, and interests.



Step 3: Choose your medium.

How do you want to tell your story? There are many visual tools to tell a story, such as a video, drawing, comic strip, photojournal, or even a scrapbook! Each medium allows you to convey a message in a different form and appeal to different kinds of audiences. Write or draw some ideas of what your story might look like and what tools you will use to create your story.



Tips

- The medium chosen needs to be accessible for your audience. For example, a scrapbook may be suitable for sharing with a small group of people during recess. If you are creating a video, note down how your audience will be able to watch it.
- Suggestions for free web applications that can help you create your visual story:
 - o Video: Download DaVinci Resolve 17 (Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/63Ln33O4p4c>)
 - o Blog, comic strip, poster: Use Canva (Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/l12LTwSGh6Q>)



Step 4: Craft your message.

What do you want your audience to do or understand after seeing your visual story? Write or draw your thoughts about what people can do about mangroves and what they have learnt from your visual story.



Guiding Questions

- What is one key takeaway point that you want your audience to have after seeing your visual story?
- What can they do to learn more, support a cause, or contribute to protecting mangroves in some way?



Tips

- A good story helps people to understand the topic better and inspires them to find out more.





Tips to telling a successful visual story



- Tips**
- You and your students can add to this section by considering what makes a good visual story.
 - Find an example of a good visual story that you like, and analyse it with your class to determine what makes a visual story successful.

Recommended reading

1. Mangroves, NParks:
www.nparks.gov.sg/biodiversity/our-ecosystems/coastal-and-marine/mangroves
2. 11 facts about mangroves, Conservation International:
<https://www.conservation.org/stories/mangroves-facts>
3. Mangrove, Singapore Infopedia by NLB:
https://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_412_2005-01-03.html
4. Mangroves and mudflats, WildSingapore Factsheets:
<http://www.wildsingapore.com/wildfacts/plants/mangrove/mangroves.htm>
5. Mangroves: A tale of survival, BiblioAsia:
<https://biblioasia.nlb.gov.sg/vol-13/issue-1/apr-jun-2017/mangroves>
6. Mangroves, Smithsonian Institute:
<https://ocean.si.edu/ocean-life/plants-algae/mangroves>

**If you want your students to develop skills on visual storytelling,
talk to us about our Visual Storytelling Workshop.**

Write to us at singapore@conservation.org