



WHO LIVES IN MANGROVES?

Objectives: Students will learn about the animals that live in the mangroves and the special ways that they have adapted to live in this environment.

Suggested discussions for video:

1. Which is your favourite animal found in the mangroves? Why?
2. Name a physical feature that enables an animal to adapt to the conditions in mangroves.
3. What are the challenges faced by animals that live in mangroves?

Purpose of this activity:

Mangroves are one of the most diverse ecosystems, and even though there has been a lot of research conducted on the plants and ecosystems over the years, there is still a lot that is not known about its inhabitants. Get students to learn more about the unique animals that live in different parts of the mangrove ecosystems. Encourage them to name the animals and conduct some basic research.

Tips for using the Activity

Activity 1



Guiding Questions

- Which parts of the mangrove ecosystem is affected by high tides and low tides?
- What animals can be out at high/low tide?
- How is that animal able to survive there?



Tips

- Examples of animals that can be spotted on trees: bats, insects, birds, snakes.
- Examples of animals that can be spotted on mangrove roots: marine snails, mudskippers, tree-climbing crabs, snakes insects.
- Examples of animals that can be spotted in the water: fish, otters, snakes, water monitors.



Talking Points

- Animals can be found in some places in the mangrove forest but not others because of multiple reasons (such as availability of food, safety from predators, requires water to breathe).
- For example, a mudskipper is adapted to living on land and in water – and even though it is a fish, it spends more time on land than underwater! They move on the mud by using their pectoral fins.



Activity 2



Guiding Questions

- Why did you pick that animal?
- Some animals have adapted to live in different ecosystems. Can these animals be found anywhere else apart from mangroves?



Tips

- Students can select animals presented in the video. However, they can also explore other animals by using this Index of Mangrove Fauna from the Guide To the Mangroves of Singapore: <https://mangrove.nus.edu.sg/guidebooks/text/fauna.htm>
- Fun facts about the chosen animal can be creative. For the sample profile on crocodiles, other such points include:
 - Cold-blooded, so can be seen basking in the sun when it is sunny.
 - Global threats: habitat loss, hunting for skin used to make leather products like handbags, and demand from pet trade.
 - Best observed from a distance.
- For a fun activity, divide your classroom into groups. Each group can create a profile poster for one animal, sharing information such as its name, where it can be found in the mangroves, how large they can get, expected lifespan, and fun facts.

Recommended reading

1. History and Biodiversity, Guide to the Mangroves of Singapore, National University of Singapore: <https://mangrove.nus.edu.sg/guidebooks/text/1003.htm>
2. Rainforest by the Sea: Celebrating Singapore's Mangrove Forests, RootsSG: <https://www.roots.gov.sg/en/stories-landing/stories/rainforests-by-the-sea-celebrating-singapores-mangrove-forests/story>
3. Trees of the Mangroves, NParks: <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/nparksbuzz/nov-issue-2021/main-feature/trees-of-the-mangroves>