



WHY ARE MANGROVES SO IMPORTANT?

Objectives: Students will learn about the importance of mangroves to the health of nature and people around the world.

Suggested discussions for video:

1. What are 2 ways that people benefit from mangroves?
2. Are people the only ones who benefit from mangroves?
3. What would happen if all the mangroves in the world disappeared?

Purpose of this activity:

Students will gain a deeper understanding of how mangroves function and how they are connected to other ecosystems from land to sea. They will learn about the benefits of mangroves and how they contribute to the well-being of people, especially coastal communities.

In addition, they will have insight on how people have altered the natural ecosystems of mangroves over time, and the new challenges facing humanity and how we need to adapt.

Tips for using the Activity

Activity 1



Guiding Questions

- Where do you think each physical feature fits in the diagram? Why?
- Why did you draw the human settlements there? What conditions may have attracted people to settle there?
- How does each physical feature affect the one next to it?



Tips

- Use a real-life case study that you know of that showcases the progression from mountain ridge to coral reef.
- Acknowledge that mangroves also occur along rivers, in addition to coastal areas.



Activity 2



Guiding Questions

- How do mangroves provide each of these listed “benefits”?
- Do you recall from the video how mangroves impact fisheries?
- How do mangroves sequester carbon?



Tips

- These annotated diagrams will make good posters to put up at school to teach others about all the wonderful things that mangroves do!
- Learn to annotate a diagram using callouts:
<https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/office/annotate-a-diagram-by-using-callouts-2f3a8780-4bab-45a3-88dc-ad2ac0b79cb9>



Talking Points

- There are many commonly used products that are derived from mangroves. An example is charcoal which is made from mangrove wood. As the wood is carbon-rich, it burns for a longer time, making it ideal for cooking and barbeques.
- This list of benefits is not exhaustive. There can also be many benefits to aspects like culture, recreation, education, well-being. Can you name any others?

Recommended reading

1. Commentary: Mangroves, a crown jewel of Singapore’s Coastline, CNA:
<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/commentary/mangrove-sungei-buloh-park-climate-change-carbon-sea-rise-coast-2052221>
2. Mangrove Ecology, Mangrove Action Project:
<https://mangroveactionproject.org/mangrove-ecology>
3. The Importance of Mangroves, The Nature Conservancy:
<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/florida/stories-in-florida/why-mangroves-important>