



# Be a Beach Steward

## **Objective:**

Students will learn how to behave during field trips to the beach in a way that is respectful and minimizes harm to the animals and habitats of the intertidal zone.

## **Concept:**

By reviewing proper beach stewardship students will be properly prepared for both the field trip experience and the ways in which their presence and activities on the beach could impact the beach habitat they are trying to study.

## **Materials**

- ◎ Beach stewardship grab bag
  - Cloth Bag
  - Kid's Rubber Boot
  - Rock with shells or markings on top
  - Snail or clam shell
  - Toy shovel
  - Litter
  - Plastic crab or other intertidal animal
- ◎ Hand Out: Beach stewardship

## **Preparation:**

Make enough copies of the Beach Stewardship hand out so each student can have one.

Place the beach stewardship grab bag items in a cloth bag or other container.

## **Introduction:**

Ask students if they've ever hear the word steward before.

Just like a steward or stewardess on an airplane makes sure the passengers are safe and their needs are met, being a steward of something like

a beach means taking care of it and making sure the organisms that make it home aren't harmed can continue to live there.

Prepare students for their beach field trip by discussing possible impacts their presence at the beach might have and ways in which they can help to minimize the impact and prepare themselves for a successful trip.

## **Activities & Procedures:**

Have students come up, one at a time, and pull an item out of the grab bag. Ask the student to try to think of a way that their item symbolizes a beach stewardship "rule" that should be followed or action they should take at the beach.

## **Wrap-up & Extensions:**

Once all of the items have been pulled from the bag distribute the Beach Stewardship brochure and discuss any other items that are useful to your group.

## **Evaluation:**

Observe student behavior during future intertidal exploration and monitoring trips to assess their understanding and application of beach stewardship concepts.





## Be a Beach Steward *Continued*

### **Beach Stewardship Grab Bag** **What the Items Stand For**

Boot: Walk single file over areas of attached plants and animals. Walk, don't run and watch where you step!

Rock covered with barnacles on one side: Return rocks to original position. Turn rocks over gently. Don't turn over really large rocks or you might crush the animals who live below!

Snail shell: If you find an animal tightly attached, leave it attached! Don't collect shells and other "beach stuff" because they can be a home to other animals.

Toy/Plastic crab: Hold animals close to the ground...they may be slippery, slimy or quick. Use small tubs and buckets if possible to view animals. Cup hands and keep them moist with a little bit of water if you are holding animals.

Toy shovel: Fill in holes! Small animals left underneath a big pile of mud and sand can be killed and someone could fall in the hole and get hurt.

Hat: Dress warmly!

Litter: Don't litter, in fact - encourage your group to pick up trash and debris they find!

