

Calendar Activities

The calendar activities described below are based upon our app, *Ocean Forests*. This app provides young children with a nonfiction reading opportunity as well as games and 3D explorations all based on the topic of kelp forests and the marine inhabitants of that environment. You can learn more about our apps and our company at www.brightworldebooks.com



Calendar:

Use a die-cutter to create calendar markers, perhaps a fish shape. Perhaps, utilizing the list of facts below, write a fact about life in the kelp forest on the calendar marker, which can be read aloud to the class when the marker is placed on the calendar.

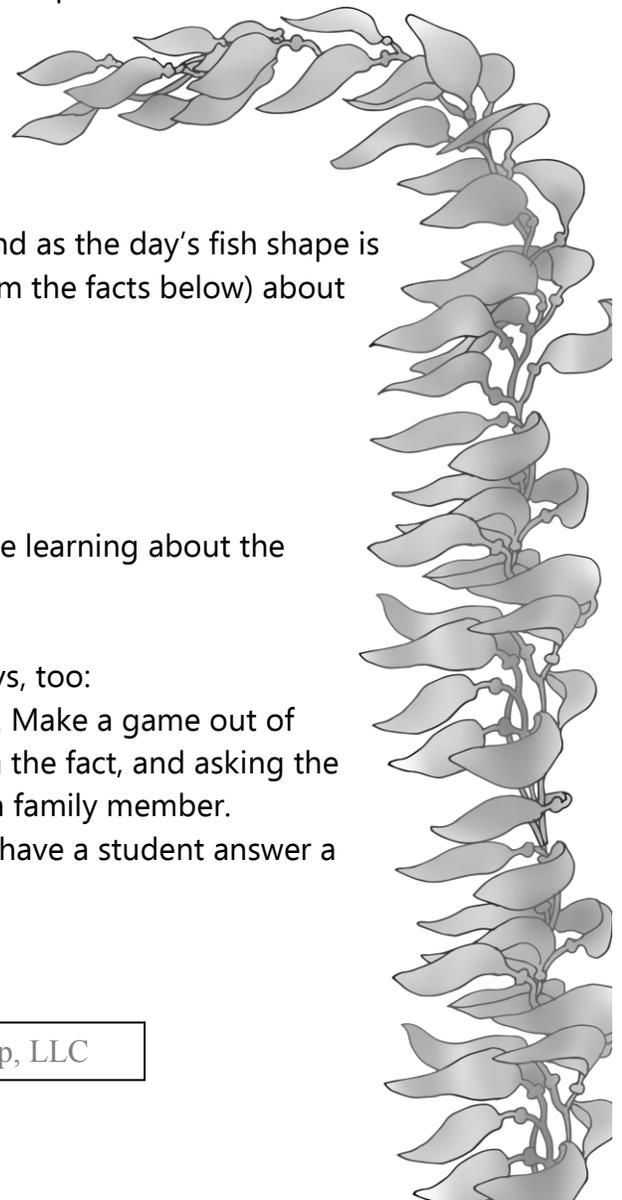
Or, when undertaking calendar activities with your class, and as the day's fish shape is being placed on the calendar, ask students a question (from the facts below) about life in the kelp forest. For example:

How much can kelp grow in a day?
Giant kelp can grow two feet per day!

In both cases students will recognize that they will continue learning about the kelp forest today.

These facts/questions can certainly be utilized in other ways, too:

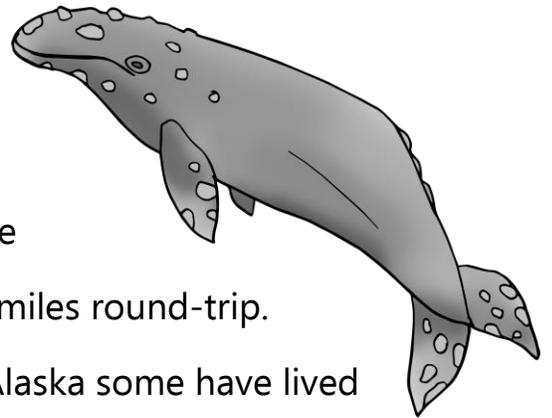
- Cut out the facts and place them in a bag or bowl. Make a game out of students choosing a fact, forming a question from the fact, and asking the question of a classmate, of the whole class, or of a family member.
- Before leaving for recess, lunch, or the bathroom, have a student answer a question about life in the kelp forest.



The facts below are all derived from information presented in either the *Ocean Forests* story or in the Explore portion of the app. Have students spend more time with both features to become more and more of an expert on life in the kelp forest!

Facts about Life in the Kelp Forest

1. Giant kelp can grow two feet per day!
2. After being bitten off by a hungry fish, brittle stars can grow new arms!
3. The gray whales' annual migration is one of the longest among Earth's mammals, over 10,000 miles round-trip.
4. Rockfish are one of the longest-living fish. In Alaska some have lived more than 200 years!
5. Green sea turtles are reptiles, not fish, and they cannot breathe underwater.
6. A mother leopard shark will give birth to 20 – 25 baby leopard sharks at a time.
7. Sea urchins are echinoderms, animals with "spiny skin"
8. The sea otter's dark brown fur is the finest and densest of any animal fur.
9. Sharks do not have any bones in their bodies.
Their skeleton is made of cartilage.
10. Sea anemones are animals without a backbone.
They are invertebrates.



11. The suckers on an octopus' tentacles provide it with taste and smell. Suckers are also useful in grabbing prey.

12. The holdfast does not grow into the ocean floor. It grabs onto rocks and never enters the sand of the ocean floor.

13. Although great swimmers, harbor seals are not fish. They are marine mammals and they breathe air.

14. Gray whales are baleen whales, meaning they do not have teeth.

15. When kelp is harvested it is not killed; the algae continue to live and grow. Kelp, then, is a renewable natural resource.

16. Echinoderms, like sea urchins and brittle stars, are never found in fresh water or on land. They only live in the ocean.

17. Bat stars usually have five arms, but they can have as many as nine.

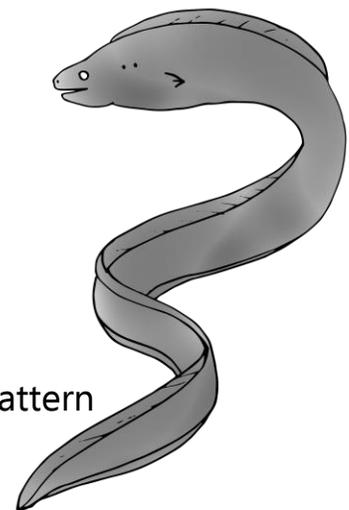
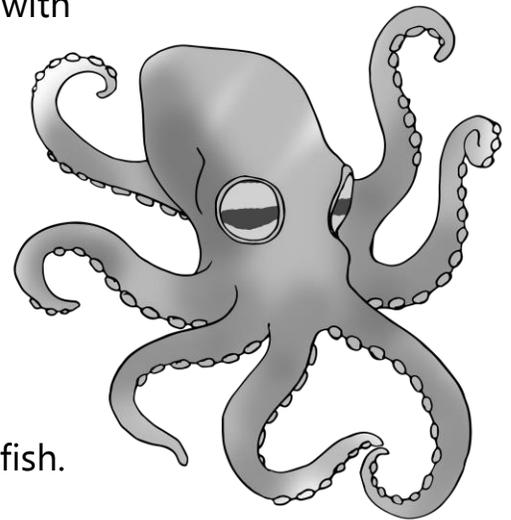
18. A large group of bat rays is called a "fever of rays."

19. Anchovies are an important food source for many animals of the kelp forest, and people eat anchovies, too.

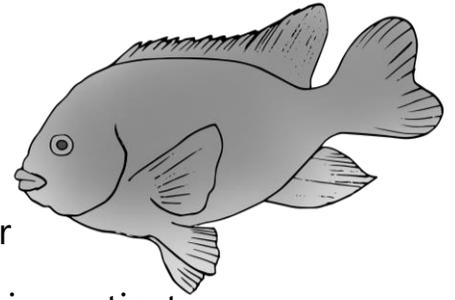
20. Sheephead are predators. They have teeth for eating animals with hard shells like crabs, sea urchins, and mussels.

21. Moray eels spend most of their day wedged into crevices.

22. California halibut are able to change their color and pattern of their coloring to match their surroundings.



23. The garibaldi is the official fish of the state of California.



24. Green sea turtles are an endangered species. Their numbers are few and they are in danger of becoming extinct.

25. Swell sharks are nocturnal fish. They do their hunting and feeding at night.

26. Too many sea urchins in a kelp forest create a bad situation. They can kill the entire kelp forest.

27. By eating sea urchins, sea otters limit the amount of destruction sea urchins can cause in the kelp forest.

28. Sea anemones are predatory animals; they kill the food they eat. The tentacles that surround their mouth are venomous.

29. Octopuses are venomous animals. Their saliva paralyzes their prey.

30. Giant kelp is not a tree, a vine nor even a plant. Giant kelp is a type of brown algae.

31. Bat rays have a venomous spine at the end of their tails that they use to defend themselves against sea lions.

