

CHRISTMAS PRAWNS IN AUSTRALIA



Classroom Lessons for a *Sustainable* Christmas
Teacher resources - Primary

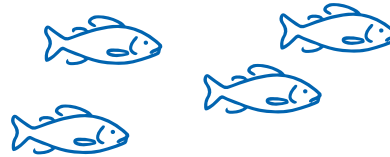


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Australian Curriculum Objectives

Cross-Curriculum Priority - Sustainability



Years 5 & 6 (Stage 3) - HASS

- [AC9HS5K08](#)
Types of resources, including natural, human and capital, and how they satisfy needs and wants
- [AC9HS6K08](#)
Influences on consumer choices and strategies that can be used to help make informed personal consumer and financial choices
- [AC9HS5S02](#) / [AC9HS6S02](#)
Locate, collect and organise information and data from primary and secondary sources in a range of formats
- [AC9HS5S03](#) / [AC9HS6S03](#)
Evaluate information and data in a range of formats to identify and describe patterns and trends, or to infer relationships
- [AC9HS5S06](#) / [AC9HS6S06](#)
Propose actions or responses to issues or challenges and use criteria to assess the possible effects

Years 5 & 6 (Stage 3) - Science

- [AC9S5U01](#)
Examine how particular structural features and behaviours of living things enable their survival in specific habitats
- [AC9S6U01](#)
Investigate the physical conditions of a habitat and analyse how the growth and survival of living things is affected by changing physical conditions
- [AC9S5I06](#) / [AC9S6I06](#)
Write and create texts to communicate ideas and findings for specific purposes and audiences, including selection of language features, using digital tools as appropriate

Years 5 & 6 (Stage 3) - Mathematics

- [AC9M5N07](#)
Solve problems involving division, choosing efficient strategies and using digital tools where appropriate; interpret any remainder according to the context and express results as a whole number, decimal or fraction
- [AC9M5N09](#)
Use mathematical modelling to solve practical problems involving additive and multiplicative situations including financial contexts; formulate the problems, choosing operations and efficient calculation strategies, using digital tools where appropriate; interpret and communicate solutions in terms of the situation





In this 40-60 minute lesson for ages 10+ learners will discuss the Australian Christmas tradition of eating prawns, and the importance of sourcing seafood like prawns in a sustainable way.

Key terms

- Prawn (Shrimp)
- Christmas
- Tradition
- Festive
- Overfishing
- Sustainable fishing

You will need

- Access to the video [Amazing Animals. The Shrimp](#)
- Colouring-in pencils or drawing materials (Science)
- Access to the video [In the Blood](#) (HASS & English)
- Access to internet - supermarket online store and recipe pages (Maths)
- Printed copies of page 6
- Optional - Calculator (Maths), Printed copies of the [supermarket survey](#)

Key questions

- How do we celebrate Christmas in Australia?
- What is a Prawn?
- Where do the prawns we eat at Christmas time come from?
- What is overfishing?
- Is sustainable seafood more expensive?
- How can we ensure that we have sustainably caught prawns in the future?

Class Activities

- Learners discuss their favourite Australian Christmas traditions
- Learners discover what a prawn is
- Learners label the anatomy of an Australian banana prawn
- Learners consider where our seafood comes from and the importance of consuming sustainably
- Learners calculate the cost of a sustainable Christmas seafood lunch





CHRISTMAS PRAWNS IN AUSTRALIA



Starter (5-10 mins)

Begin class by asking students

- How do we celebrate Christmas in Australia?
- How is Christmas in Australia different to other countries in the world?
- What Christmas traditions do they have in their families?
- What types of foods do they eat at Christmas time?

Introduce students to the tradition of eating prawns at Christmas time. In Australia, we consume 40% of our yearly intake of prawns at Christmas time alone. Some popular Christmas prawn dishes include:

- Prawns on the barbecue, grilled prawns, prawn skewers
- Butterflied prawns
- Prawns with pasta or salad
- Prawn cocktail
- Seafood platter or seafood dip

But exactly what is a prawn? And where do our prawns come from? In this lesson we will discover the journey this favourite festive food takes from the ocean to our plates.

Shrimp or prawn?

Show students this video from National Geographic Kids [Amazing Animals, The Shrimp](#) (1:16). Then complete one or more of the exercises below.

In North America and other parts of the world, the terms 'shrimp' and 'prawn' are used to differentiate between species of this crustacean. Shrimp have claws on two sets of legs, whilst prawns have claws on three sets. Shrimp are smaller, and usually refer to saltwater species, whilst prawns are larger and usually refer to freshwater species. In Australia, we use the word prawn interchangeably for all species.

Main Activity (30-45 mins)

Science & Art

Anatomy of a prawn. Use the exercise sheet on page 6 to label and colour-in the different parts of the prawn using scientific terms. Answers are on page 10.

Ask students to consider and discuss the following questions:

- Where is the prawn's skeleton?
- How might the different features of a prawn help them to live in underwater environments?
- Which parts of the prawn we eat, and which we do not?
- What might we be able to do with the parts of the prawn we do **not** eat? (eg. make a seafood stock)





If you have the time, you could even follow this [instructional video](#) (6:54) to draw a prawn of your own. You might like to add a santa hat or other Christmas features!

HASS & English

What would Christmas be like without prawns? To see about what sustainable prawn fishing looks like in practice show students the video [In the Blood](#) (5:33) about the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery in South Australia. Students write a short story or poem describing what Christmas prawns might look like in 20 years time.

Sustainable Fishing

Sustainable fishing means catching fish in a responsible way to make sure that fish populations don't drop below levels where they cannot reproduce and grow faster than they are caught. A healthy prawn stock means that fishers only catch a certain number of prawns each year, ensuring that there will be enough prawns left in the ocean for future generations.



Video Credit: Australian Council of Prawn Fisheries, FRDC and [Millstream Productions](#)

Maths & Economics

Students work in pairs to plan a Christmas lunch for TEN people using [one of the MSC Christmas Seafood recipes](#) or a recipe of their own choosing. Ask students to calculate the total cost of all the ingredients they need to make enough food for ten people.

Next, ask students to find an Australian supermarket of their choice which has an online store. Students research the different prawn products available and calculate

- How much would their recipe cost if they were to use the cheapest prawn product available?
- How much would their recipe cost if they were to use an MSC-certified prawn product?
- How much would their recipe cost per person to use an MSC-certified prawn product?

Discuss as a class

- Is it more expensive to buy sustainable prawns?
- What other types of costs might we have to consider when calculating which prawns to buy? (eg. social, environmental)

Discussion (5 mins)



Discuss as a class,

What can we all do to make sure that we have prawns this Christmas and **every** Christmas into the future?





Extension Activities

1. Supermarket Survey

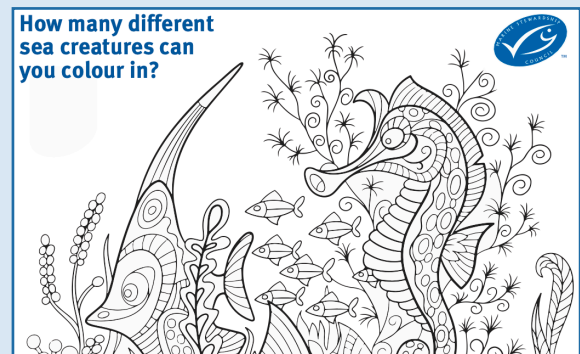
Ask students to search for the online store of a local supermarket, or take a trip to their local supermarket, and check to see if they sell any MSC-Certified prawn products. Fill out their results in the Saltwater Schools [Supermarket Survey Sheet](#). Consider: where do these products come from - Australia or another country?

2. The Mantis Shrimp

A special species of shrimp found in Queensland's Great Barrier Reef is the Mantis Shrimp. Mantis Shrimp see the ocean environment in a very different way to us. They can detect light that no other living creature we know of can.

Show students this video about the mating rituals of [Mantis Shrimp](#) (1:36)

Students can also explore this amazing example of [Mantis Vision](#) from David Attenborough's Reef.



3. Australian Wild Prawns

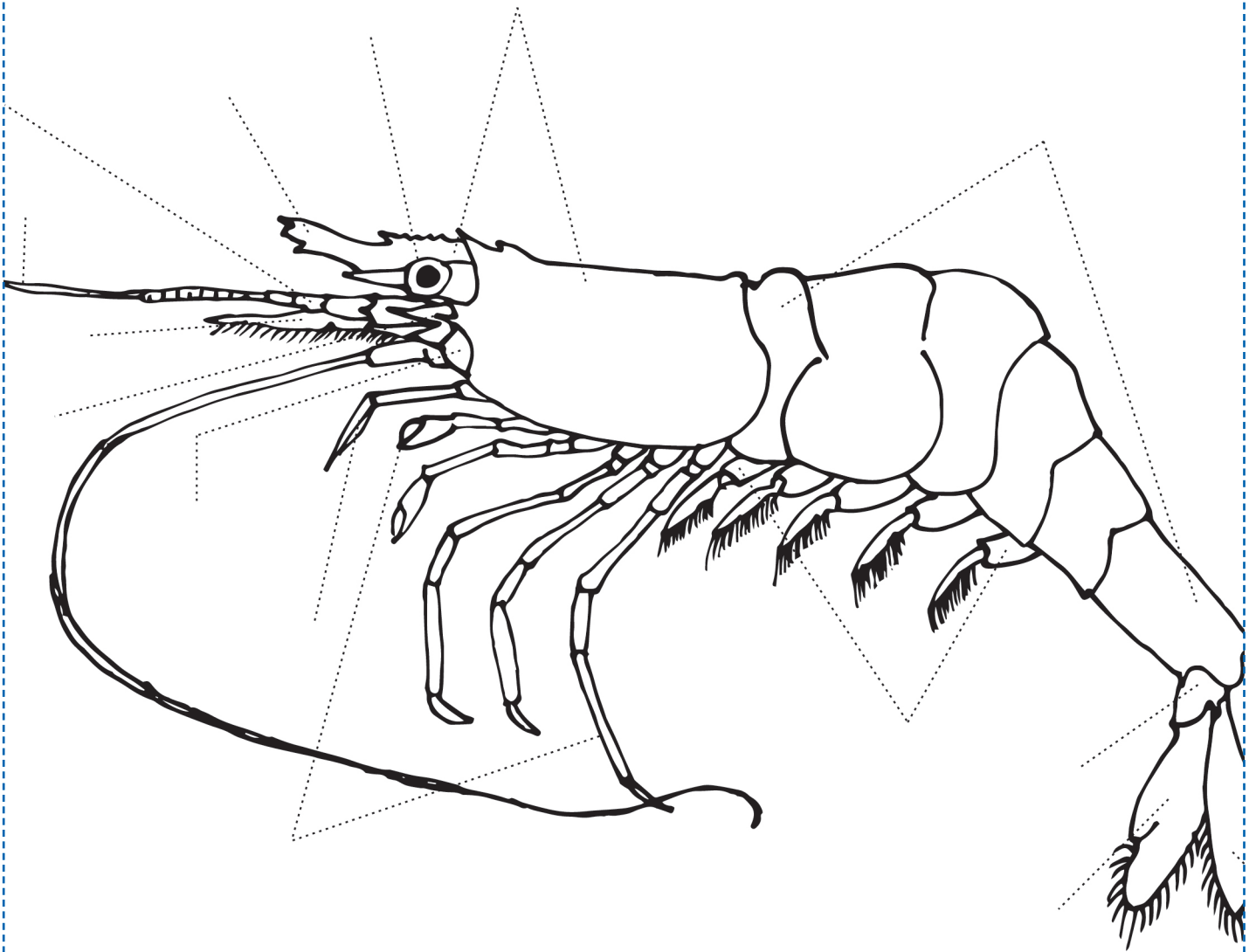
Students explore these resources from the commercial prawn fishing industry

- A [map](#) of Australia's Wild Prawn Fisheries
- A guide to the [Prawn Species](#) most commonly fished in Australia
- An [interactive 3D](#) or AR experience on board a prawn trawling vessel

4. Tiger Prawn Colouring Sheet

Simple and fun, enjoy [colouring in](#) an MSC-certified sustainable tiger prawn (and other fun sea creatures) and decorate with your own Christmas touches!

Label & Colour the Christmas Prawn



Body Parts

Antenna; Abdominal Segments; Carapace; Eye; Rostrum; Swimmerets; Walking legs

Questions

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- How might the different features of a prawn help them to live in underwater environments?
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Prawn Body Parts - Answers

