SEAGRASS AND OYSTERS COASTAL CONSERVATION

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are using funding from Orsted to return Seagrass and Oyster habitats to the East Coast. This workshop explores their vital conservation work and the challenges faced along the Holderness coastline. Learners then take on the role of conservationist and attempt to restore habitats in order to protect the landscape.

KS4+

Biology, Geography, Citizenship

40 Minutes

OVERVIEW & CURRICULUM LINKS

This workshop begins by investigating the different beach habitats that exist on the Holderness region east coast, from Flamborough Head down to Spurn Point. The methods Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are using to develop Seagrass and Oyster habitats are discussed before learners attempt to maintain these habitats for themselves on a Spurn Point map.

OBJECTIVES

For the learners to:

- Understand coastal habitats and the effects climate change is having on them
- Understand biodiversity as it builds in a habitat
- Understand how natural and man made disasters affect the growth of the habitats

LEARNING SESSION CONTENT

This workshop begins by examining the geology of the Holderness coast from Flamborough Head to Spurn Point. The variety of beach types along this coastline are considered, including platform beaches and the spit at Spurn Point. The effect of climate change on erosion and storm surges is also discussed.

We then focus on two important native habitats, Seagrass meadows and Oyster reefs, and the role they play in protecting the coastline. The source of funding and the work of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in re-establishing these habitats is shown, with careful reference to where these habitats can be located.

Finally learners create their own Seagrass and Oyster habitats on a map of Spurn Point, introducing their choices of native species as the habitats grow. This will increase understanding of food chains as food webs within the habitat become apparent, identifying relationships within the ecosystem. Contending with both natural and manmade disasters, learners aim to develop their habitat, scoring points for biodiversity.