



Teacher Resource

Algal Bloom

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN High story as a class and record the main points of discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Briefly describe what an algal bloom is.
2. Name the species of algae that's mainly responsible for the recent algal bloom in South Australia.
3. What events are likely to have caused the algal bloom?
4. How is the algal bloom affecting sea life?
5. What effect can it have on people?
6. What impact has the algal bloom had on the economy?
7. South Australian Senator Sarah Hanson-Young is leading a senate inquiry into the algal bloom. What will this senate inquiry involve?

Activities

- Should the algal bloom be declared a natural disaster? Write an essay arguing your point of view.
- In small groups, create a national campaign to raise awareness of the algal bloom.
- Australia is home to tens of thousands of different species of algae. Choose one type of algae and address the following as a scientific fact sheet: *scientific name, description, geographical location and interesting facts*. Include a reference list.

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KEY LEARNING

Students will explore what causes an algal bloom, and the impact it can have on marine life, people and industries.

CURRICULUM

[Science – Year 7 \(v8.4\)](#)

[Geography – Year 7 \(v9.0\) - 1](#)

[Geography – Year 7 \(v9.0\) - 2](#)

[Earth and Environmental](#)

[Science – Unit 3 \(v8.4\)](#)