

Endemic Species and Sustainability – Something for Everyone

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Objectives

- To learn about endemic species in diverse biomes (example given is Galapagos and New Jersey seashore but comparisons can be made using water ecosystems from other states also; I.E.- Florida keys, Pacific coast of California)
- To recognize all stakeholders in environmental issues and the need for collaboration
- To study sustainability issues using a multidisciplinary approach through science, art, social studies, and writing activities

Background Information

I. Galapagos Islands

- A. World Heritage (1974) site off coast of Ecuador in Pacific Ocean
 - 1. Galapagos National Park (1959)
 - 2. Galapagos Marine Reserve (1986)
- B. Tropical rainforest biome; “living laboratory for evolution”
- C. Numerous endemic species including tortoises, iguanas, lizards, boobies, sharks, finches
- D. Sustainability problems
 - 1. commercial fishing
 - 2. black coral extraction
 - 3. sea cucumber harvesting
 - 4. ecotourism
 - 5. interest groups and stakeholders
- E. Conservation of biodiversity
- F. Legislation

II. New Jersey

- A. 4th smallest state in U.S.
 - 1. most densely populated
 - 2. 130 mile shoreline on Atlantic Ocean
- B. Deciduous forest biome
- C. Numerous endemic species including mussels, sedge, birds, ferns, fish
- G. Sustainability problems
 - 1. commercial fishing
 - 2. many endangered species
 - a. loss of habitat
 - b. overdevelopment and suburban sprawl
 - 3. horseshoe crabs and bird migrations
 - 4. “shore” tourism
 - 5. interest groups and stakeholders
- H. Exotic invasive plants
- I. Legislation