Kelp Forest Worksheet

With the help of an adult, use the Internet to answer these questions about kelp forests. Be sure the websites you are using are reliable and contain references (lists of places where the author got their information).

Once you have completed the questions, create your own indoor kelp forest using the directions in the Kelp Forest blog post. Cut out the kelp forest animals and plants located on pages 4-9 of this pdf and place them in your indoor kelp forest.

1. What is a kelp forest?

2. What is kelp?

3. Where can you find kelp forests?

4. What animals and plants live in kelp forests?
Kelp Forest Worksheet Answer Key

With the help of an adult, use the Internet to answer these questions about kelp forests. Be sure the websites you are using are reliable and contain references (lists of places where the author got their information).

1. What is a kelp forest?

A kelp forest is an area in the ocean where a type of brown algae, called kelp, grows together in dense groups. The kelp is very tall and provides many areas for ocean life to live.

2. What is kelp?

Kelp are not plants, they are in the Kingdom Protista and are actually a form of brown algae. These algae live in cool, shallow water near the shore.

Although the algae are not plants, they do go through the process of photosynthesis, which means they get their energy from the sun to make sugars inside their cells. Kelp is found in shallow water where the sunlight can reach it.
3. Where can you find kelp forests?

Kelp forests grow in cold water where there are a lot of nutrients. Because of the cold California current flowing from Alaska, the waters of the Pacific Ocean along the west coast of the USA are ideal environments for the growth of kelp forests.

4. What animals and plants live in kelp forests?

The animals and plants living in a kelp forest include many larger marine mammals, fish, and birds, such as sea otters, seals, kelp fish, surf perch, great blue herons, and gulls.

Also living in the kelp forest are smaller organisms without backbones called invertebrates. These include crabs, snails, sea urchins, and sponges.

Sea Urchin
Sea Anemone
Sponge
Blades of Giant Kelp