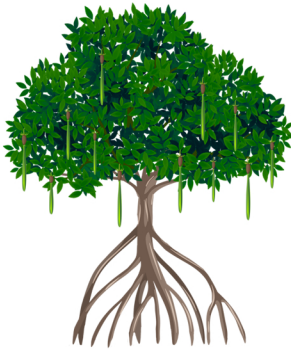




WHAT ARE MANGROVES?



Mangroves are hardy plants and ecosystems. They have adapted to living along rivers and coastlines, in challenging conditions where the soil could be soft, low in oxygen, experience high and low tides every day, and salty! How do they do this?

Complex topics, ideas, and concepts can often be explained through visual stories, which help people to appreciate the details and understand the topic better.

ACTIVITY 1

Create a visual story to explain what mangroves are and some ways that they have adapted to living in the unique environments where they can be found. Here's how!

An effective visual story uses drawings, pictures, videos, and information to engage with an audience emotionally to encourage them to take action.



Step 1: Choose your topic.

What do you want to share? There is so much to learn about mangroves. Narrow down to one or two topics that you are curious about. Jot down some interesting facts and questions you will need to answer to tell your story about mangroves.

Some ideas: where mangroves can be found and why; or why they look the way they do; or why some kinds of plants and animals can live there but not others.



Step 2: Choose your audience.

Who do you want to share your visual story with? Once you've figured out what you want to share, think about who you want to talk to about mangroves.

Your audience may determine what facts you share, or how you share those stories about mangroves. People belong to many different social networks, such as virtual ones on TikTok or Instagram, or physical ones like school clubs or community centres.





Step 3: Choose your medium.

How do you want to tell your story? There are many visual tools to tell a story, such as a video, drawing, comic strip, photojournal, or even a scrapbook! Each medium allows you to convey a message in a different form and appeal to different kinds of audiences. Write or draw some ideas of what your story might look like and what tools you will use to create your story.

Step 4: Craft your message.

What do you want your audience to do or understand after seeing your visual story? Write or draw your thoughts about what people can do about mangroves and what they have learnt from your visual story.



Tips to telling a successful visual story

Don't just tell them, show them!

Be sure your story has at least one clear message to your audience. This could be a call-to-action.

Pick up ideas from some of your favourite videos, blogs, photos, and comics. How and why did they use visuals to tell their story?



Make sure your story relates to your audience.

ACTIVITY 2

Now you're all set to create your visual story about mangroves! Conduct your research, speak to people, visit a mangrove park or reserve, and get started on creating your visual story.



Dive Deeper: Take your visual story and find opportunities to share it with people. Create a communications plan for how you want to share your visual story with more people. You could present your story on social media channels online, at a school assembly talk, or even share with friends on a mangrove walk!