

# OH NO! ALL THE SEAGRASS HAS GONE

Use the cards to:

- 1) Explain why seagrass is disappearing.
- 2) Explain why seagrass is so important and why we should restore it.

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| Seagrasses protect coral reefs from bacteria runoff from the land.     | The stabilised sediment created by seagrasses allows mangrove forests to grow.                       | Seagrass have the potential to store dissolved carbon from the sea (blue carbon).              |
| Seagrass captures carbon 35 times faster than tropical rainforests.    | The leaves of seagrass provide shelter for thousands of sea creatures.                               | Seagrasses can be found in shallow water (approx. 4 meters deep).                              |
| The grass meadows can slow water currents down.                        | There are four species of seagrass found around the coast of the UK.                                 | The grass meadows can capture nutrients in the currents.                                       |
| The roots of seagrasses can stabilise sand and mud preventing erosion. | Dredging can stir up sediment blocking the sunlight for seagrass to grow.                            | Seagrass covers 0.1% of the seafloor.  |
| Seagrass fisheries support 20% of commercial fishing.                  | Seagrass can reduce wave energy providing coastal communities protection from the effects of storms. | Sea turtles and other grazing marine life use seagrass as one of their main sources of food.   |
| At least 44% of the UK's seagrass has disappeared since 1936.          | The UK's seagrass meadows would have once stored and estimated 11.5 million tonnes of carbon.        | By supporting healthy fishing grounds, seagrasses provide nutrition for over 3 billion people. |

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| Seagrasses filter pollutants and bacteria out of the water.         | Through photosynthesis, seagrasses produce oxygen for the water.  | Development along the coast has threatened seagrasses as they are removed to make way for coastal protection. |
| Boats mooring in sheltered bays rip up seagrass with their anchors. | Pollution and fertilisers which run off the ground into the sea encourage algae to grow blocking out the sunlight for photosynthesis. | Seagrass is the only flowering plant to live in seawater.   |
| Seagrasses support the wider seascape.                              | Some marine species move between different habitats during the day.   | Seagrass meadows, coral reefs and mangrove forests work together to support each other.                       |
| There are over 60 species of seagrass around the world.             | Compared with sandy habitats of the ocean, 30 times more species live in the seagrasses.  | Coral reefs protect seagrasses from wave energy.  |