

Curricular Connections

The Fairy and the Seaweed Garden

Place-based Ecology and Natural History:

Chondrus Crispus is a gorgeous red seaweed that often grows where the tides are strong, mussels abundant and eider ducks present during the winter months on the coast of Maine. The story mentions other species that grow in this marine ecosystem as well such as sea anemones and kelp. *Chondrus Crispus* anatomy and environmental needs are described but folded within the plot. It is an edible seaweed and some recipes are hinted at during the story when the fairy is eating her meals. While there is a lot of natural history and some cultural information embedded with the story it is also very fanciful with its Sea Monster and Father Sky. It is essentially a pour quoi narrative of why and how *Chondrus Crispus* got its blue iridescent glow.

Explore:

- If you are near a coastal area explore the tide pools in the spring to see if you can find *Chondrus Crispus* and other creatures.
- Draw a picture of this underwater ecosystem with its many species and of course the fairy as well! :)
- Learn more about sea urchins, kelp, and eider ducks!
- [Life on Intertidal Rocks](#) is a great field guide to add to your collection.
- Try making seaweed pudding!

Reflect and Share:

- What could the Sea Monster be a metaphor for? Why?
- “Why did [the sea monster] want to destroy so much? What hardness inside of him made him that way and made his actions so dark?” Reflect on what the fairy was trying to figure out in the story.
- Has anything challenging ever happened to you and how have you gotten through it?

Photos:

