

# Seaweed Search

**Grades:** 3-5

## **Materials**

- Magnetic board
- Pictures of different household products with magnetic backing or Tape
- List and description of products with seaweed in them.

**Topic:** Students will learn about the many uses of seaweed and how it is in everyday products.

## **Description**

Seaweed is in many products that we use everyday. With this game, students will have to guess which of the products shown contain seaweed. The demonstrator will briefly describe how the seaweed is used in each product. At the end of the game the demonstrator will describe the types of seaweeds used and share some interesting facts about seaweed.

This can also be played as a game with students divided into teams. Each team takes turns guessing which products contain seaweed. A point is received for every correct answer. The game is finished when all the seaweed products are found.

## **Background Information**

Seaweeds are ocean plants that can be divided into three types; Brown, Red and green based on their colour. Each type is used in different commercial products.

**Brown seaweed** contains **alginates** which help oil and water mix to make smooth liquids. Alginates can be found in a variety of foods (yogurt, ice cream, milk shakes, dairy products, salad dressings, cake mixes, pudding, sauces) and commercial products (cosmetics, lipstick, livestock feed, fertilizers and beer).

**Red seaweed** contains **carrageenan** which is an important ingredient for gels. Some examples of this include food (gelatins, ice cream), cosmetics, and medicine (Agar microbiology gels).

**Green seaweed** contains **beta-carotene**, a pigment that is used in yellow-orange food colouring. Whole green seaweed is also used as food in sushi and other Asian foods.