CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2012 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
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Project Number
J2206

Project Title
Sea Cucumber Substrate Preference

Abstract

Objectives/Goals
My goal was to find which surface the giant sea cucumber would rather be on or move to. I wanted to see if it would rather be on a plastic, sand, or rock surface.

Methods/Materials
I used 3 tubs and filled them with water. Then I placed to of the 3 surfaces in one tub. I then placed the giant sea cucumber in the middle of both surfaces. I would switch the container every trial so the light wouldn't affect the giant sea cucumber. Each trial would last 20 min. and I would keep a separate timer for when it would go onto a surface.

Results
The giant sea cucumber spent 1185 seconds on the sand surface. It spent the 2nd most amount of time on the rock surface which is 1152 seconds. It spent the least amount of time on the plastic surface which was 201 seconds.

Conclusions/Discussion
I came to the conclusion that the giant sea cucumber preferred the sand surface over the other two surfaces it was exposed to. It did not really spend a lot of time on the plastic surface. This showed me that the giant sea cucumber is most comfortable in its natural habitat.

Summary Statement
My project is about the sea cucumber substrate preference given 3 choices rock, sand, and plastic.

Help Received
Cabrillo Marine Aquarium by providing us with the giant sea cucumbers and the materials.