

COASTAL AND MARINE PLANTS

ANSWER KEY



Coastal and marine plants have different anatomical structures to help them survive in an environment like Long Island Sound.

For each of the structures below:

- Explain how it is important to coastal or marine plants.
- Compare it to the structures of an inland plant



SALT GLAND

- Found in coastal grasses like cordgrass (salt marsh)
- The marsh grass brings in brackish water but only uses fresh water so the salt gland allows it to expel the salt onto the leaves.
- Most inland plants do not have to deal with salt and do not need this structure

HOLDFAST

- Found in marine plants like kelp
- They can't have roots like a land plant because they do not grow in the ground. Instead, they have a holdfast that allows them to attach to a rock or other hard surface.

TILLERING ROOT

- Found in coastal grasses like cordgrass (salt marsh)
- This type of root allows the plant to grow new grasses from underground instead of just seeds. Also, if any damage happens to the blades of grass, the plant is not dead. These roots also make the ground very stable since the tide comes in and out throughout the day. Inland plants do not have the same risk of erosion so they do not need this type of root system

AIR BLADDER

- Found in marine plants like kelp.
- They do not have rigid stems like inland plants so the air bladder holds them up in the water so they can get the sunlight to their "leaves".