



ANECDOTES ABOUT ANIMALS AND PLANTS ON THE SEASHORE


Students and teachers can use the following stories and anecdotes to help remember facts about the animals and plants they find on the seashore.

Place / Plant / Species	Anecdote	Facts
<p>Sea Shore</p> 	<p>Animals and Plants that live on the seashore have to be ruthless, cunning and strong – It is no place for wimps and is all about Survival of the fittest.</p>	<p>Each animal and plant on the shore has to adapt to withstand a constantly changing environment.</p> <p>Between high and low tides, the conditions may change for some of the animals and plants completely twice a day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drying out - Force of the waves - Getting eaten - Overheating - Changing light - Changing salt content (salinity)
<p>Rock Pools</p> 	<p>Rock pools are like little oasis for all sort of creatures when the tide goes out - as some of the animals can not survive out of the water.</p> <p>These areas are also like the seafood takeaways on the seashore. They are great areas for a feast for any predator looking for quick fast meal such as a shrimp cocktail, mussel soup</p>	<p>Rock pools are created when the tide goes out leaving pools of water in rocky areas on the seashore.</p>

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ON THE UPPER SHORE LINE AND SANDY SHORE:

<p>Sand hoppers</p>	<p>Mass army on the upper shoreline – recycling and cleaning up the high tide area.</p> <p>They are the athletes on the beach and can jump long distances (to get away from the flying feathery beasts with stabbing beaks e.g. birds)</p>	<p>In the daytime sand hoppers are often found under rotting seaweed and debris on the beach where it is dark and damp.</p> <p>You will often see birds rummaging around for them in the washed up seaweed on the upper shoreline</p>
<p>Lugworm</p> 	<p>Lugworm deposits look like Spaghetti mounds on the beach</p>	<p>A lugworm looks like an earthworm.</p> <p>Deposits on a sandy seashore show signs of life under the sandy beach. The Lugworm feeds on the sand making a “U” shaped burrow. It deposits undigested sand in little casts.</p>

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ON THE ROCKS:

<p>Limpets</p>  	<p>Limpets are recognisable by their cone shaped shells, which are like a china man's hat.</p> <p>The hard shell is like a safety helmet which protects them from drying out and predators (e.g. crab attacks).</p> <p>They are the seashore version of cows on the beach. They have one huge foot and move slowly around the surface of the rock grazing on green seaweed and microscopic organisms.</p> <p>They scrape seaweed off the rocks with a tongue like a file. After feeding, they return to their home base where they have carved out a little groove on the rocks.</p> <p>Underneath the limpet it looks like it has a giant foot</p>	<p>Limpets are often stuck firmly on rocks. They create a scar on the rock which is like their home base and is perfectly fitted to their shell.</p> <p>Limpets use their foot to hang on to rocks where they can maintain a watertight grip against crashing waves during high tide and crab attacks.</p>
<p>Barnacles</p> 	<p>Barnacles are mass breeders..... Like rabbits. They are very friendly with each other and don't mind who they "socialise" with.</p> <p>Imagine an upside down crab living in a tiny volcano. If you look very closely, you can see their shells are like little houses with a door that opens at the top.</p> <p>They only come out to play "socialise" and eat when the tide is in.</p>	<p>Barnacles are crustaceans and are very common. They cover large areas of the rocky shore. They are tiny coned shaped shell fixed to rocks in masses.</p> <p>The have an opening at top covered by four plates.</p> <p>Feathery legs reach out and sieve for food when they are covered by water.</p>

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Dog whelk



The dog whelk is a common sea snail.




It lays eggs that can often be found in rock crevices and under seaweed. The eggs look like large grains of rice.

Dog whelks are found on rocky shores often in large numbers where the water is shallow. They are usually cream in colour and can grow up to 4cm long.

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IN PUDDLES OF WATER, ROCK POOLS AND UNDER SEAWEED...

<p>Common Prawn</p> 	<p>Like the invisible man with a see-through body.</p> <p>Has special ability to move backwards from its predators – flicks its tail which causes it to shoot backwards</p>	<p>The common prawn can be found in rock pools, and “puddles” on the beach.</p> <p>You often need to stand still to see them.</p>
<p>Flat Periwinkles and Rough Periwinkles</p> 	<p>The periwinkles are like snails and can vary in colour from yellows to orange and reds.</p> <p>The flat periwinkle is flat on top and smooth. The rough periwinkle has a pointed top and has grooves causing it to be rough to touch.</p>	<p>Periwinkles are small and are often found in rocky shore areas under seaweeds.</p>
<p>Sea Anemones</p>  <p>open showing tentacles</p>	<p>Sea anemones are relatives of the jellyfish and are like a regurgitating wheelie bin scavenging anything that passes over them.</p> <p>They have lots of poisonous tentacles around the top which are like little pieces of spaghetti waving around.</p> <p>If any small animal touches the tentacles, they will be zapped (paralysed) by its tentacles.</p> <p>The prey is drawn into the anemone’s stomach, their flesh digested and their bones spat out.</p>	<p>Anemones are invertebrates (spineless), approximately 2 – 7 cm in diameter.</p> <p>Beadlet anemones are often red in colour. They have a blue thin line around the base between the column and tentacles.</p> <p>The tentacles are retractable and they have a slimy surface to help keep the moisture in.</p> <p>With the changing environment conditions during the day, rock pools are like little oasis of water as the shore dries out. Anemones can often be found in rock pools, under seaweed and often between rock crevices where it is wet.</p>


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	<p>Anemone - colsed often when the tide is out and it is not covered by alot of water</p>	
<p>Crabs</p>  	<p>Crabs are like knights in a suit of armour ready to attack.</p> <p>They are like the 007's on the beach. They can move anywhere on the beach in amongst the seaweed and out of the water for short periods. They have weapons attached that can be used for all fighting, defending, eating....</p> <p>Hermit crabs use empty shells such as the whelk as their suit of armour and home. They will often battle with other hermit crabs for new property (i.e. larger shell)</p>	<p>Crabs belong to a group of animals called crustaceans.</p> <p>Crabs have all their skeleton bones on the OUTSIDE of their body. As they grow they must split their old shell down the back and crawl out. As their new shell hardens they are very vulnerable to attack by other crabs, birds and fish.</p> <p>Crabs can move around the seashore freely. Unlike prawns and shrimp, crabs can survive out of the water for short periods.</p>
<p>Starfish</p> 	<p>Starfish suck!</p> <p>They are pretty to look at but vicious when they sense a muscle (food) ahead.</p> <p>They use their arms to sense food and when found crawl over its prey to have a little feast.</p> <p>They are so strong that can they wedge shells open to find food with its arms....</p>	<p>Starfish have five arms.</p> <p>The arms have tiny tubes underneath which are like suckers.</p> <p>Small starfish are usually found among rocks, stones and in rock pools.</p>

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	<p>It has no bones and can move by hydraulics like a road digger or a JCB</p> <p>They have two stomachs..... A squirt of stomach acid and the mussel flesh becomes a lovely soup.</p>	
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FISH

<p>Blenny</p> 	<p>Blennies have a face that looks like a clown with wide lips.</p> <p>Its pectoral (chest) fins are spread out like hands to allow it to hold onto the rocks against the force of the waves.</p>	<p>Fish, such as blennies cannot exist out of water for long and are often found in rock pools or at an extremely low water mark.</p>
<p>Butterfish</p> 	<p>Butterfish are long and narrow and are like tiny eels.</p>	<p>Butterfish are often found under rocks and seaweed.</p>

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<p>Flat Fish</p> 	<p>Flatfish are flat like a pancake with their face and mouth on top of their body.</p> <p>They change colour to suit their environment –</p> <p>camouflage against their predators.</p>	<p>Young flat fish can be found in sandy rock pools.</p> <p>They bury themselves with only their eyes showing above the surface of the sand.</p>
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SEAWEEEDS

<p>Seaweeds</p> 	<p>Looking at seaweeds on the seashore is like looking at a downscaled forest.</p>	<p>Seaweeds are plants that belong to the plant group called Algae. Adapting to conditions of the seashore they grow, reproduce and also provide food and shelter for other seashore creatures.</p> <p>Unlike land plants seaweed live in and under water to survive. They have fronds instead of leaves to absorb water and light (e.g. photosynthesis). Many types of seaweed have air bladders and or midribs to hold their fronds upright in the water so that they can catch the light and still are flexible enough not to be smashed by the waves.</p> <p>They can have flexible stipes (stalks) instead of trunks and a holdfast which is used to stay attached to rocks. They have no hard, stiff stems to hold up their leaves into the sun. This is because any rigid branch structure would be smashed by the waves as they roll onshore. They vary in colour ranging from reds, greens to browns depending on how much they are exposed to the light.</p>
<p>Knotted wrack</p> 	<p>Its bladders look like knots on a rope.</p>	<p>Knotted wrack is found on the upper shore It is brown in colour and has No Midrib Its bladders grow along its fronds like knots on a rope.</p>

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<p>Bladder wrack</p> 	<p>Bladders appear in two – side by side.</p>	<p>Bladder wrack is found on the middle shore line often found attached to rocks and boulders It is brown – but can appear olive green in colour. It has a Midrib Its bladders grow in pairs on each fronds</p>
<p>Serrated / Toothed wrack</p> 	<p>Serrated edge on its fronds – looks like a saw with teeth</p>	<p>Serrated / Toothed wrack is found on the lower shoreline found attached to rocks, boulders. It is brown / olive green in colour. It has a midrib</p>
<p>Kelp</p> 	<p>Fronds look like leather belts.</p>	<p>Kelp is sub tidal. It has a Long stipe Its fronds are long and leathery and has no midrib</p>