MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Let's go to the beach!

Credit: Ben Guerin

45 mins

About this activity

Use your imagination to experience the joy of being near the sea. Visit a virtual rockpool before using your creativity in a paper plate creature challenge.

Outcomes:

- Use imagination to role play beach activities
- Learn about the variety of creatures that live in rockpools
- Use creativity to make a paper plate creature

You will need:

For the trip to the beach:

- Chairs set up in rows, like on a bus or train
- Typical items you would take to the beach e.g. picnic rugs, towels, rope, buckets, spades, inflatables, sunglasses, hats, beach chairs, frisbee, beach ball.

For paper plate creatures:

- Paper plate for each person
- Tissue paper in different colours
- Glue and paints.

For rockpool exploring:

- Make your own rockpool instruction sheet
- Sand
- A large plastic container or deep tray
- A selection of rocks and pebbles
- Water
- Access to a laminator or waterproof plastic bags
- Rockpool Creature Sheet
- Rockpool Spotter Sheet and pen for each group.

Let's go to the beach!

Part 1 — Beach fun

1. Select the items you want to take to the 'beach'.

2. Get on the 'bus' or 'train'. As you're travelling, describe what you can see out of the window.

3. When you arrive at the seaside, close your eyes and take it in turns to describe what you can hear, smell and feel.

4. Role play activities you might do at the beach, like setting out picnic blankets, putting on sunhats and sunglasses, playing frisbee.

5. To simulate the seashore, lay out a rope curved like waves breaking. Run towards the water and jump the waves.

6. What does the water look like? Is it a sunny day? Can you see reflections? Are there any trees, plants or animals?

7. Your time at the beach is ending. Collect your things. What do you need to remember when you leave the beach? Are there any items it might be easy for forget?

8. Get back on the bus or train and head home.

Part 2 — Rockpool explorers

1. Split into small groups. One group should explore the rockpool while the others make paper plate creatures.

2. Set up the rockpool using the instructions on the Make your own rockpool instruction sheet. Take it in turns to turn over the rocks and find the creatures.

3. Mark off what you find on the Rockpool Spotter Sheet.

Part 3 — Paper plate challenge

1. Use your imagination to create a marine animal using a paper plate and craft materials.

2. You could get ideas from the inspiration sheet or think of your own idea.

3. Once everyone has finished, vote for the winning creature. You could vote for the most imaginative or original design.

Leave nothing but footprints

80% of litter in the ocean comes from the land. Anything left on the beach at the end of a visit can be washed into the sea and harm marine life. This activity is a great opportunity to talk about the importance of always cleaning up properly before leaving the beach. If bins are full, don't leave rubbish next to them, take it home.

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Rockpool Creature Sheet

Print out, laminate, cut out and stick **around the sides** of your 'rockpool'.

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Dog whelk

Barnacles

Grey top shell

Common limpet

Mussels

Shore crab

Beadlet anenome

Purple/flat top shell

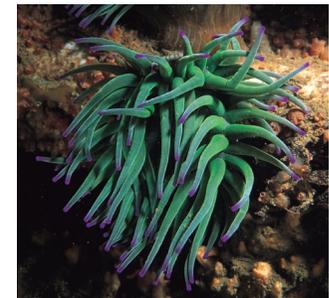Print out, laminate, cut out and stick around the side of your 'rockpool' below the water.

Bladderwrack

Common periwinkle

Common starfish

Snakelocks anenome

Rockpool Creature Sheet

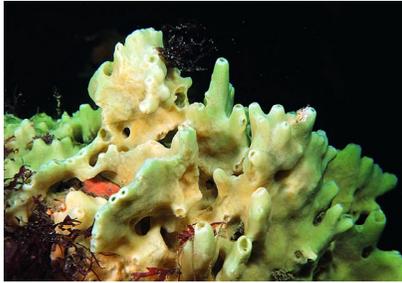Print out, laminate, cut out and stick **under rocks**.

Common whelk

Tompot blenny

Star ascidian

Common blenny

Breadcrumb sponge

Cushion star

Hermit crab

Prawn

Painted topshell

Sandhopper

Rock goby

Rockpool Creature Sheet

Print out, laminate, cut out and place them **in the water**.

Catshark egg case

Brittle star

Velvet swimming crab

Sea scorpion

Pipefish

Skate/ray egg case

Print out, laminate, cut out and stick them to the **floor** of the 'rockpool'.

Cuttlebone

Cockle

Razorshell

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Rockpool Spotter Sheet

Name:

_____

_____

Barnacles

Common limpet

Painted top shell

Purple/flat top shell

Grey top shell

Cockle

Razorshell

Common whelk

Dog whelk

Common starfish

Cushion star

Beadlet anemone

Common periwinkle

Cuttlebone

Skate/Ray egg case

Catshark egg case

Snakelocks anemone

Breadcrumb sponge

Brittle star

Star ascidian

Bladderwrack

Velvet swimming crab

Hermit crab

Common shore crab

Common blenny

Rock goby

Prawn

Mussel

Pipefish

Tompot blenny

Sea scorpion

Sandhopper

📷 Barnacles, Common limpet, Painted & Purple top shell, Dog whelk, Common starfish, Cushion star, Beadlet anenome, Sea potato; Snakelocks, Crabs, Common blenny, Rock goby, Prawn, Mussel – Paul Naylor (marinephoto.co.uk); Slipper limpet - Jack Sewell; Cockle - Fiona Couch; Razorshell, Whelk eggs cases, Cuttlebone; Kelp holdfast - Richard Harrington; Common whelk - Knut Sandaker; Catshark egg case - D Pimborough; Skate/ray egg case - Barry Peterson; Bladderwrack - Mark Craig; Hornwrack. Grey top shell - Magnus Manske; Common periwinkle - Anita Gould; Tompot Blenny - Kirsty Andrews; Sea Scorpion - F. Dorsman; Pipefish - Paul Naylor; Star ascidian - Paul Naylor; Breadcrumb Sponge - Paul Naylor; Brittle star - Paul Naylor

Make your own rockpool

What to do

1. Print the Rockpool creature sheets in colour.

2. Laminate the sheets and cut out the pictures.

3. Scatter sand across the bottom of the container or tray.

4. Place the rocks and pebbles randomly in the container and cover with water.

5. Place the 'creatures' in the correct places in the water, under rocks, at the bottom of the pool or on the side.

6. Challenge your group to be rockpool explorers using our Rockpool Spotter Sheet.

You will need:

- **large plastic container or deep tray**
- **rocks, pebbles, and sand**
- **water**
- **sticky tape or adhesive tack**
- **access to a colour printer and laminator**
- **Rockpool Creature Sheet**
- **Rockpool Spotter Sheet**

Where to place the creatures

On the side above water: barnacles, beadlet anemone, common limpet, dog whelk, grey top shell, mussel, purple/flat top shell, shore crab

On the side under water: bladderwrack, common periwinkle, common starfish, snakelocks anenome

Under rocks: breadcrumb sponge, common blenny, common whelk, cushion star, hermit crab, painted top shell, prawn, rock goby, sandhopper, star ascidian, tompot blenny

In the water: brittle star, cat shark egg case, pipefish, sea scorpion, skae ray egg case, velvet swimming crab

Bottom of the pool: cockle, cuttlebone, razorshell

Use our spotter sheet when rockpooling

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Paper plate creatures

What will you make?

Here are some ideas of creatures to make with your paper plate. Use these as inspiration or think of your own creature.