

Unit 9 Rockpools

1. Whole class instruction

Objective: To introduce the idea of ecology at the coast. Many children like to play about in rockpools, but they can also study – and understand and be empathetic with – the wild creatures that live there, too.



1.1. Go to video 47

“What happens during the day in a rockpool?”

- ▶ The video simply shows the way that water washes in to rockpools. It is clearly a turbulent environment and so the animals and plants that live there must have good ways of surviving, such as hiding (crabs) or clamping tight (winkles, mussels, seaweed, anemones). So children can see that these are adaptations to their environment.

Play video 47 which shows a rockpool being filled by a rising tide.

Look at page 44 of Coast Book.

1.2. Go to Text book pages 44-45

“What wildlife lives in and near a rockpool?”

- ▶ It will help if you have done food chains in Science. There are two things to discuss: food chain – so birds eat crabs and have beaks adapted to find them; and that every living thing there is adapted, so that birds don't find all crabs, and so some crabs survive.
- ▶ This is a really good opportunity to talk about balance between living things. Explain that it occurs naturally, as we have seen above with the bird and crab, and people should ensure that it can still happen when they are about. Discuss conservation etc.

For cross-curricular with science, look at Science at School book topic 4B Habitats, unit 8 and Living Things Book (bottom of the science list), pages 28-9.

2a. Group exploration

2.1. Aquarium rockpool

- ▶ If you live within reach of the sea, you could consider keeping a saltwater aquarium so that creatures can be investigated.
- ▶ Don't keep them in it too long, just in case the environment you produce is not oxygenated enough, because one of the things the tide does is to bring in oxygenated water as well as microscopic food.



2b. Literacy activity

Looking at animals

- ▶ The comprehension workbooks can be used either as a fictional story of an interaction between people and animals (rockpool) or to look at the behaviour of a species.

**Use Literacy
Workbook
6 Rockpool
and/or
Workbook 7
Crab**

3. Plenary session

- ▶ Get children to say what they think they have learned and present it perhaps on the whiteboard or in their own books.

4. Further work/homework

- ▶ Find out about any other common animal or plant that lives in a rockpool, for example, limpet, shrimp, anemone, winkle, mussel, seaweed and present results to the rest of the class.