Rocky and Sandy Shores

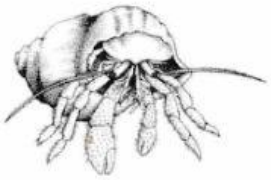
The rocky and sandy shores are ecosystems. Animals and plants that live in these ecosystems can withstand ocean water, rising tides, and other harsh conditions.

Rocky Sea Shore

Have you ever been to a rocky shore before and played amongst the rock pools?



There are many **plants** and **animals** living on rocky shores. Many of them are covered with the sea water at high tide but have to live out of the water for a long time each day as the water drops down to the low tide level.



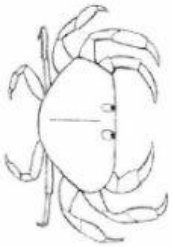
If they live in a **rock pool**, then the water may be very **salty** at sometimes because the water evaporates between tides, leaving the salt behind. At other times, the water in the pool may become **diluted** by rainwater, so it is less salty.



As the waves crash against the rocks, animals and plants have to hold on tightly, or they will be washed away. Organisms living at the top of the rocky shore are only submerged by the sea for a short time every other week. Organisms that live low on the low shore are only uncovered for a short time every other week.

Sandy Sea Shore

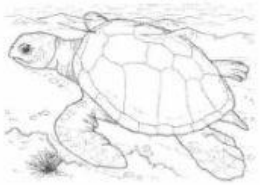
A beach is not made up of only sand. Items from the ocean drift up on the beach because of waves and currents in the ocean. Rocks and minerals may also drift up from nearby rivers and streams. Animal remains such as **shells** and **bones** also drift upon the shore. Human objects are also found on the beach - often these items are litter. These objects can come from ships and boats, as well as from beach visitors. They can be dangerous to animals and plant life on the beach and in the ocean.





As waves crash against the shoreline, all these items are ground into sediments, and the rough edges are progressively smoothed and rounded into tiny grains of sand. If we look closely into pieces of sand, you will see many of these items ground into a tiny grain of sand.





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