












Investigate rock pools


Educator Notes

Age				
Early Years	4-7	8-12	12-15	16+
				

Time				
> 10 mins	> 30 mins	> 60 mins	> 2 hours	Long term
				

Season				
All year	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
				

Curriculum Links	
Expressive Arts	
Health & Wellbeing	
Literacy & English	
Mathematics	
Sciences	
Social Studies	
Technologies	

Location		
Indoors	Outdoors	Either
		

Equipment list
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buckets or other containers • Clear jar – to take a closer looks at your finds • Sturdy footwear • Pencil/pen and paper (optional)

Instructions

1. Wherever you decide to go rock pooling, there are some rules to follow to avoid causing harm to wildlife and to keep yourself safe at the same time. Read the [Rock Pooling: Safety and Top Tips](#) (next page) before you go.
2. Half fill your buckets with seawater. Have more than one to keep bad tempered animals apart and never put fish in a bucket with anemones or jellyfish as they will sting the fish!
3. Carefully lift sea creatures into your containers – watch out for spines and pincers! Use your spotter sheet (following pages) to try and ID some of the creatures you find, ticking off the ones you spot.
4. You can use spare blank paper to sketch your finds or take some notes- you could even keep a tally of what you find. If you find any creatures and you aren't sure what they are, you can take a picture and try to identify it online afterwards.
5. Make sure to return the animals to where you found them when you've finished and wash your hands afterwards!





Rock Pooling: Safety and Top Tips

It is important to have a complete a comprehensive **risk assessment** before carrying out your rock pooling activity.



Things to keep in mind before and during your rock pooling:

- It is important to know the **tide times** when visiting the coast – you can find this by visiting the MET office website [here](#). While you're out, be aware of your surroundings and the tide's direction.
- Make sure you are **always supervising children** while rock pooling.
- Make sure any **cuts are covered** by watertight plasters. Always **wash hands** thoroughly after this activity. Avoid touching nose, eyes and mouth when you have wet or dirty hands.
- Dress appropriately for the weather and outdoor work. Children and adults should wear **appropriate footwear** – we recommend wellies or sturdy shoes.
- Any adult acting in a supervisory role should be **adequately trained**, ideally first aid.
- Only keep animals in **buckets out of the sun** and for a short time.
- Replace **rocks to the same position** once you've looked underneath.
- Don't **prise limpets/anemones/seaweed** from their homes.
- Return all creatures **back where they were found** once you are finished and **do not take any home**
- Afterwards, **wash all trays and nets** you used before using them for different activities



Rockpool detective



Starfish



Edible crab



Beadlet anemone



Clingfish



Shore crab



Prawn



Butterfish



Hermit crab



Snakelocks anemone

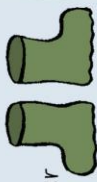


Blenny

How to go rockpooling

You will need:

- Buckets or clear Tupperware containers
- A field guide or ID sheet
- Sturdy footwear
- Camera and/or pens and paper
- An adult to help you keep an eye on the tide



1 Half fill your buckets or containers with sea water. Have more than one to keep bad tempered animals apart!

2 Use your hands to carefully lift crabs, starfish and other sea creatures into your containers. Watch out for spines and pincers! Nets can cause damage to rockpools and are best avoided.

3 Use a guide to identify your creatures. Take notes, sketch them or photograph them.

4 Return the animals to where you found them when you've finished looking and wash your hands before eating.

Be careful
not to damage
delicate animals

Don't prise limpets,
anemones or
seaweed from their
rocky homes

Don't take living plants
and animals home with you

Replace rocks to
the same position
once you've looked
underneath