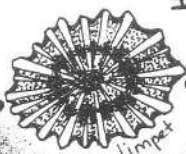


THE TIME TO VISIT A ROCKPOOL IS WHEN THE TIDE IS LOW. ROCKPOOLS ARE WET AND SLIPPERY, SO WEAR SOFT SOLED SHOES AND WALK CAREFULLY. A ROCKPOOL IS A VERY CROWDED HABITAT, WHERE THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT PLANTS AND ANIMALS. TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL HABITAT, DON'T COLLECT ANY LIVE PLANTS OR ANIMALS, & IF YOU PICK UP AN ANIMAL OR ROCK TO LOOK, PUT IT BACK EXACTLY WHERE YOU FOUND IT. HAPPY ROCKPOOLING & WATCH FOR BIG WAVES!



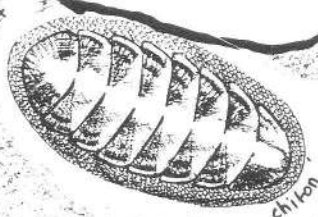
IN HIDING

Can you see some hard white tubes attached to the rocks? Tubeworms live inside these. The worms come out and feed only when the water covers them.



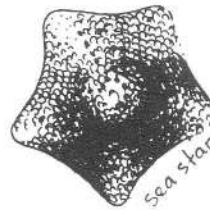
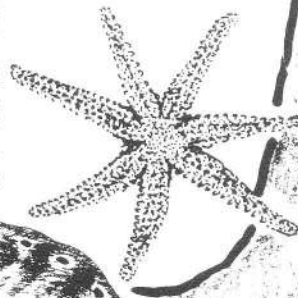
HOLD ON TIGHT

If you try to pull an abalone off a rock, you will find that it sticks tightly. Other animals, such as chitons and limpets, like abalone, eat algae and are very safe in their shells, sticking so tightly to the rocks. No wonder these animals don't get washed off when the tide comes in.



HOW MANY LEGS?

Have you ever looked underneath a sea star? There are several rows of tube feet radiating from the mouth. Don't you think we would have trouble moving all those feet at once to move in a certain direction?



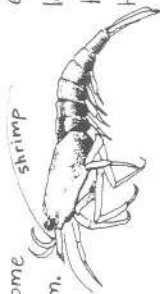
PLANT OR ANIMAL?

Many of the rockpool animals don't even look like animals. The sea anemone looks like a flower, with its waving tentacles. The tentacles help the anemone catch its food. When its tentacles are withdrawn the animal is like a soft ball.



CRABS

Search amongst the seaweed or under rocks for crabs. The large front claws are used for catching and holding their prey of dead or alive small animals. Look underneath the crab at the "tail" tucked under its body. A male crab has a narrow triangular tail, while the female has a wide rounded tail, where she holds her eggs until they hatch.



COLOURS

Some of these animals have beautifully coloured shells. Other have no outside shell but brightly coloured bodies. Colour the pictures here.

MYSTERY TRACKS

You may notice a fine layer of sand on the bottom of the rockpool. Look closely, can you see strange tracks? What makes the tracks, a limpet, a nerite, a top shell or something else? Time these animals for 2 minutes and see how far they have moved.

