

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Tidal Pools

### Reading and Discussion

Have you ever noticed how the water in the ocean moves away from the beach and then back again? If you build a sandcastle on the damp sand at low tide, by high tide it will have washed away. There are usually two high tides and two low tides every day.

When there are rocks at the edge of the ocean you will often find pools of water left there at low tide. Many strange creatures live in these pools. There are **starfish** and **urchins**, **anemones** and **barnacles**, **mussels** and **snails**, **crabs**, **kelp** and even small **fish**.

The waves that cover the pool at high tide bring water and food for these creatures, but when the tide starts going out again it takes most of the water with it. The water that is left is heated by the sun, and some pools dry out completely. The creatures that live in the pool have to **adapt** to avoid being washed away by the waves, dried out in the sun, or being eaten by **predators** like gulls.

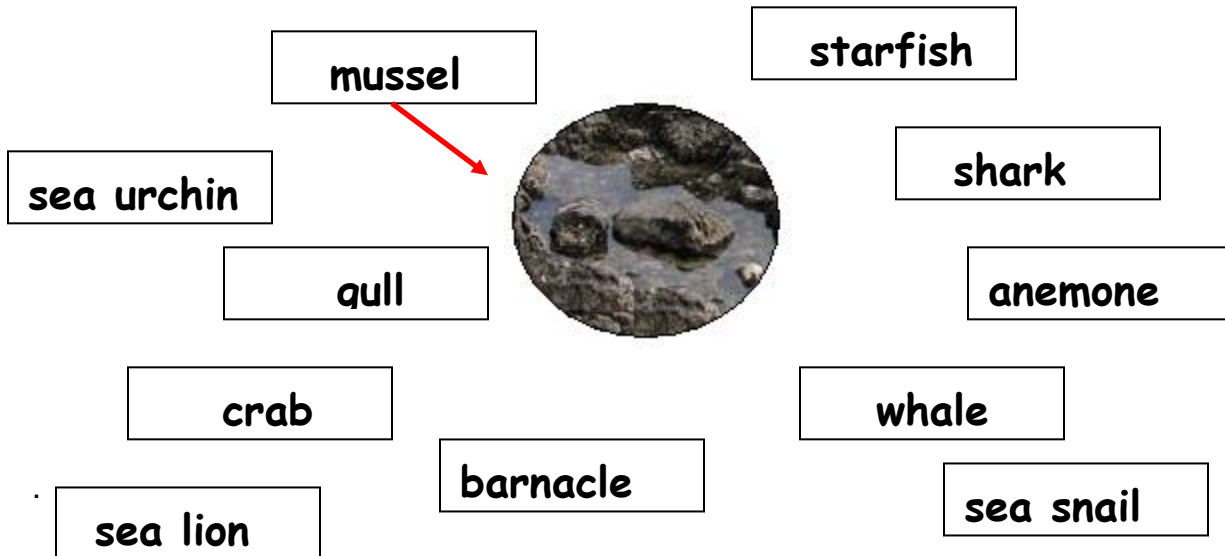
Some sea creatures, like barnacles, have hard shells, called **exoskeletons**. The shells protect them from predators and allows them to store food and water which keeps them alive, even if the pool dries out completely. Others, like anemones, sea snails and starfish, fasten themselves onto the rocks when the tide goes out so that they can't be washed away.

Small fish hide in the kelp or algae growing in tidal pools to keep away from the heat of the sun and find shelter from predators. The sea urchin has hard teeth which it uses to **grind** a burrow for itself in the rock, and it uses its long **suction tube** feet to help keep it safe in the burrow as the tide moves the water in and out of the pool

## Activities

### Activity A: Which creatures live in tidal pools?

Draw a line from the sea creatures to the tidal pools. The first one has been done for you.



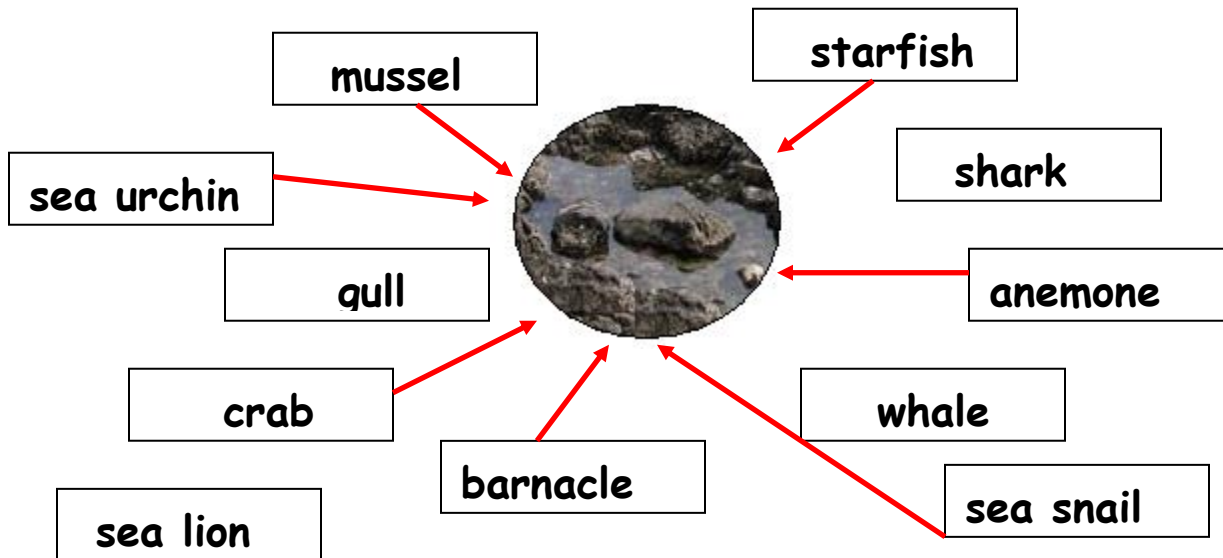
### Activity B: How do the sea creatures adapt to tidal pools ?

Fill in the missing word or words in the following sentences:

1. Barnacles have ..... which protect them from predators.
2. Starfish ..... themselves onto the rocks when the tide goes out so that they can't be washed away.
3. Small fish ..... in the kelp which grows in tidal pools to keep away from the heat of the sun.
4. The sea urchin has hard teeth which it uses to ..... a burrow for itself in the rock.
5. The sea urchin also uses its long ..... feet to help keep it safe in its burrow.

## Answer Key

### Activity A



### Activity B

1. Barnacles have **hard shells** (or exoskeletons) which protect them from predators.
2. Star fish **fasten** themselves onto the rocks when the tide goes out so that they can't be washed away.
3. Small fish **hide** in the kelp which grows in tidal pools to keep away from the heat of the sun.
4. The sea urchin has hard teeth which it uses to **grind** a burrow for itself in the rock.
5. The sea urchin also uses its long **suction tube** feet to help keep it safe in its burrow