Beachcombers

Imaginative learning project for year 2

Oh I do like to be beside the seaside. Do you? That's good, because you're about to become an expert beachcomber. Head to your nearest beach to look for interesting and unusual objects, using your senses to spot, sniff and seek them out. Have you seen the rock pools yet? We can take a peek into the cool water to learn about the weird and wonderful animals and plants in their microhabitats.

What's your favourite book about the seashore? Let's invent an amazing rock pool resident. What features will it need to survive happily in its watery habitat?

Science Focus. Key Facts:

- A habitat is the place where a plant or animal lives and has everything it needs to survive, including air, food, water and shelter.
- Coastal habitats include cliffs, beaches, sand dunes and marshes.
- Microhabitats are smaller habitats found within a larger habitat.
- Life can be very hard for animals and plants that live at the coast. They have to cope with strong winds, heavy rain, crashing waves and the tides.
- Seas and oceans are very large habitats. A huge number of different animals live in seas and oceans. These animals have special body parts that help them to breathe, move, feed and protect themselves.
- Fish have gills that help them breathe underwater. Their body shape and fins help them move easily through the water.
- Many non-living things can be found on the beach. Sometimes, non-living things are left on the beach by visitors or washed up from the sea.
- Plastic waste takes a long time to break down and can be harmful to living things.

Key Vocabulary

⇒ **Algae: a simple, plant-life living thing that grows in or near water**

⇒ **Aquatic: living in or near water**

⇒ **Coast: the land near the sea**

⇒ **Headland: an area of cliff that extends into the sea or ocean**

⇒ **Island: a piece of land with water all around it**

⇒ **Predator: an animal that eats other animals**

⇒ **Prey: Animals that are eaten by other animals**

⇒ **Rock pool: A pool filled with seawater on a rocky seashore**

⇒ **Sea: a large area of saltwater. Seas cover large parts of the Earth**

Homework Projects

♦ **With an adult, use the web to research famous artists who use the beach for inspiration**

♦ **Make a list of all the activities you could do at the seashore. Survey your friends and family to identify the 'top five seashore activities' and display the results in a pictogram or bar chart**

♦ **Create a collage of a seaside scene using magazine pages**

♦ **Make a 3D sea animal. You can use any material you like—perhaps papier mache, fabric, plastic bottles, clay, play dough or Lego pieces**

♦ **Design, draw and paint a picture of a beach hut. Bring it into class and display everyone's beach huts next to each other**