

# JUNIOR RANGERS

BORN TO EXPLORE



## EXPLORE VICTORIA'S ROCKY SHORES

ROCKY SHORES ARE THE AREAS OF ROCK BETWEEN HIGH AND LOW TIDE MARKS ON THE COAST. THEY ARE COVERED BY WATER DURING HIGH TIDE AND EXPOSED WHEN THE TIDE IS OUT.

Victoria's rocky shores are unique! Most of the marine plants and animals found here can be found nowhere else in the world. Explore the rocky shores and see if you can find these amazing creatures without getting too wet.

### BEFORE YOU START

For your safety, always visit the beach at low tide and with an adult. Never turn your back to the sea and be alert for large unexpected waves.

Wear sturdy shoes to avoid slipping, never place bare hands or feet in pools and crevices and be sun smart.

Remember to take photos and have fun, take your rubbish home and leave all the creatures, seaweeds and shells where they are. Tread carefully to avoid standing on animals and plants.

### GET ARTY

Draw a picture of something you found on the rocky shore that lives much of its life out of the water.

Draw a picture of something you found in a rockpool that never leaves the water.

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THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF THE ROCKY SHORES CAN BE FOUND IN DIFFERENT ZONES ON THE ROCK PLATFORM DEPENDING ON HOW LONG THEY CAN SURVIVE OUT OF THE WATER.

Take a walk along these different zones and find amazing creatures hiding in rockpools, sheltering under rocks or in rock crevices and fixed to boulders. Colour in the pictures of all the creatures you can find using the colours you saw.

HIGH TIDE LINE

LOW TIDE LINE

**Abalone** feed on algae mainly at night and hold on tightly to rocks during the day.

**Chequerboard snails** are scavengers and use their 'siphon' or nose to find dead animals to feed on.

**Blue grey periwinkles** can survive out of the water for a long time because of their tight fitting trap door which holds the moisture within their shell.

**Red waratah anemones** look like red blobs at low tide but when the tide comes in, they unfold their red tentacles to sting prey.

**Common sea stars** come in blues, greys, greens, oranges, purples and reds and have tiny little tube feet to move around with.

**Chitons** protect their backs with 8 overlapping plates and can roll up in a ball to protect themselves from predators.

When the tide comes in, **limpets** move away from their home base scraping algae off rocks before returning to their base at low tide.

**Barnacles** are stuck to rocks with their heads. When the tide comes in, they open their armour-like doors and stick their legs out to capture food.

**Mussels** clamp together to protect themselves from predators.

LOW ZONE

MID ZONE

HIGH ZONE

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## LIFE IN A ROCKPOOL

Rockpools are found near the low tide mark and come in all shapes and sizes.

It's a tough life for creatures in small rockpools. They're easily accessed by predators, water warms up and turns salty on hot days and flushes out when it rains.

Stand on the edge of a rockpool, be very still and catch a glimpse of what lives in the water.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Rocky shores look different every time you visit them. Waves shape our shores by eroding rocky platforms and creating rockpools. Rocks, sand and sea life are carried away with the receding tide and also left behind after high tide.

**Neptune's Necklace** is brown seaweed that looks like a string of pearls.

The **Elephant Snail** looks like it has grown too big for its shell. Its tiny white shell is often completely covered by a black mantle.

Bright red **Biscuit Sea Stars** push their stomach outside their body to eat. Once the food is digested, they pull back their stomach into their body.

**Seagrasses** are plants that live underwater. They provide a habitat for tiny marine animals like prawns and fish.

The spotty **Smooth Toadfish** is seen as a nuisance by fishermen because they gobble up bait, but they keep our coastal waters clean by feeding on almost anything they can scavenge.

**Purple Sea Urchins** are covered in spines which help the urchins to move around and protect it from predators.

Female **shore crabs** have an O like tail flap to carry their eggs, while males have a V like tail flap.

This beautiful patterned **Pheasant Snail** shell comes in reds, pinks and browns and is sometimes called 'painted lady'.

**Tasmanian Blennies** will dart out from their holes in rocky reefs to snap up tiny shrimps and crabs.

