

Rockpool Ranger

What is a Rock Pool?

A rock pool is a small pocket of seawater that stays behind in holes or cracks in rocks when the tide goes out. These pools are like little homes for all kinds of sea life.

Life in a Rock Pool

- ★ **Animals:** You might find include crabs scuttling around, tiny fish darting about, or snails sticking to the rocks.
- ★ **Plants:** Seaweed is a common plant you'll see, and it gives animals food and places to hide.
- ★ **Other Creatures:** Sometimes, there are colourful sea stars, anemones that look like flowers, and even little shrimp!

How They Work

Rock pools are special because they are always changing. When the tide comes in, fresh seawater fills the pool, bringing in oxygen and food for the animals. When the tide goes out, the creatures need to adapt. Some hide under wet rocks to stay cool, while others, like snails, seal themselves up to keep their moisture.

The Challenges

Life in a rock pool isn't easy! The water can get really warm or salty when the sun shines. But animals that live there are tough and can handle these changes.

Why Rock Pools Are Important

Rock pools are like tiny laboratories where we can learn how animals survive in tough environments. Plus, they help keep the seaside ecosystem healthy by supporting a lot of different creatures.

Next time you visit a beach, take a closer look—you might discover a whole world in a single rock pool!