

Life in rock pools

Read *New Zealand Geographic* no 1 (Jan 1989) pages 103 – 8
Pools of discovery by John Walsby

It describes:

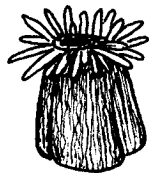
- a. the types of animals and seaweeds found in pools: fish, shrimps, snails, sea slugs, sea eggs, starfish, tubeworms, crabs and hermit crabs
- b. how variable conditions in different sized pools affect the inhabitants.
Water warming and cooling, salinity changes, oxygen depletion, change in water level and UV ray burning

This article is a good example of changing attitudes. See if your students can spot why the story is no longer a useful tool for promoting marine reserves.

The issue also includes a useful page of 'Tips for rock pool fossickers' under headings:

- When to go
- What to take
- Taking photographs
- How best to see shy animals
- The next step (using a mask and snorkel)
- What to take away (only photos and memories)

A colour poster *The secret world of the Rock Pool* supports the article and has biological notes on 46 different species. This is included in the *Marine Reserves Education Kit*.



Exercise

(Art and Science) Junior levels

Rock pool diversity

Pre-visit

Before visiting the marine reserve go through the NZ Geographic rock pool poster to introduce many of the common animals that students will be able to see in the pools.

Site-visit

From a list carried by the teacher (and possibly a laminated copy of the poster) attempt in a 20 minute search to locate as many as possible of the specimens shown in the rock pool poster. As students find each of the specimens have them notify the teacher and the rest of the class with a raised hand so everyone can be gathered to see it. For additional reinforcement take the opportunity to say a few words about each creature, mentioning a characteristic feature and how it makes a living

‘Here’s the intertidal tubeworm. You can see its crown of dark blue tentacles that it uses for filtering plankton from the water.’

Post-visit

Direct the class in making a large wall poster of a rock pool, modelled on the NZ Geographic poster. Allocate to each child a different creature to draw carefully and have them write one or two sentences about it to a set format.

The illustrations are to be drawn to an approximate size predetermined by the teacher so that each one fits into a biologically appropriate place in the poster pool.

Small self adhesive, numbered, spot-labels can be stuck beside each animal illustration for cross-reference to a numbered list of the names and descriptive sentences assembled on a separate key sheet below the poster.

