

The Rocky Shore - Spotter's Guide

Dog whelk



- Drills through the shell of its prey then injects enzymes to digest the insides before sucking back out.

5 points

Orange sponge



- It may not look like one, but a sponge is an animal!
- Soft with 'holes' and found in shady places.

15 points

Flat periwinkle



- A sea snail with flattened 'spire'. Colour varies.
- Likes to live on seaweed.

5 points

Serrated wrack



- Brown seaweed with a jagged edge like a saw.
- Found on the lower shore.

5 points

Keel worm



- Builds hard white tubes on rocks and lives in them.

10 points

Shanny



- Changes colour to blend in with rocks or seaweed
- Can survive outside water for a short time.

15 points

Laver bread



- A flat red seaweed that grows purplish as it gets bigger.
- A classic Welsh food!

5 points

Prawn



- Has very good hearing
- A prawn has a pointed rostrum 'horn', the flattened shrimp doesn't.

10 points

Hermit crab



- Found in pools and the shallows.
- Very good at righting themselves if the shell is knocked over.











20 points

Brittle-star



- Found in crevices and under stones (be sure to replace stones afterwards)
- Handle with extreme care – it's in the name!

20 points

<p><u>Purple topshell</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea snail with a distinct purple striped shell. • Internal mother-of-pearl. <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10 points</p>	<p><u>Chiton</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks a bit like a woodlouse. • Found in damp places and under rocks. <p><input type="checkbox"/> 25 points</p>	<p><u>Coral weed</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a coral at all but a hard, crusty seaweed. • Strong sun can turn it white. <p><input type="checkbox"/> 15 points</p>	<p><u>Sea lettuce</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An edible green seaweed. • If removed from the rocks by a storm it can grow when floating. <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5 points</p>	<p><u>Beadlet anemone</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jelly-like blobs with tentacles visible for feeding when underwater. • Their mouth is also their bottom! <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5 points</p>
<p><u>Limpet</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returns to its home 'scar' each day. Never knock off a limpet – it will not survive. <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5 points</p>	<p><u>Green-leaf worm</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-15cm • Feeds on dead barnacles and mussels. <p><input type="checkbox"/> 25 points</p>	<p><u>Snakelocks anemone</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long sticky tentacles that can be brown or green with pink-purple tips. • Found in pools <p><input type="checkbox"/> 15 points</p>	<p><u>Broad-clawed porcelain crab</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found on the underside of rocks (roll back after). • One claw massively bigger than the other. • Up to 1.5cm <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10 points</p>	<p><u>Shore crab</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most common crab on the shore. Colour varies from green to red. • Pincers to grab prey (watch out!). <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5 points</p>

More than 100 points: you are an official seashore explorer
More than 140 points: you are a seashore exploring expert!



Acknowledgements:

- Much information in this guide was taken from the CCW Seashore Countryside Explorer booklet 2006. ISBN 1 86169 136 x
- MarLIN (The Marine Life Information Network)

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