



PROJECT OCEANOLOGY



Rocky Intertidal Shore Exploration

The rocky intertidal shore is a narrow yet diverse habitat with changing tides, crashing waves and strong competition for food and space. Why is this ecosystem always changing? At high tide, the area is underwater; at low tide, it is mostly dry. Organisms tolerate limited space by living on top of others, growing quickly to outcompete others or by forcing competitors out of their space. High tide brings food as well as powerful waves that can pull residents away from their rocky home. Low tide leaves organisms unprotected. The rocky shore is divided into four vertical zones which contain particular organisms adapted to both air and water exposure. Draw and label the zones of the rocky intertidal, choose one zone to complete the table and collect marine life from our rocky shore!

1. Define the following:
 - a. Adaptation
 - b. Spray zone
 - c. High tide zone
 - d. Middle tide zone
 - e. Low tide zone
2. Draw and label a diagram of the zones in the rocky intertidal shore.



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3. What are 3 challenges for animals that live here? What are 3 adaptations or ways they solve these problems?

4. What human-related threats are affecting the rocky intertidal shore?

5. Fill out the following table for ONE of the rocky intertidal zones.

Zone name	
Zone features	
Algae in zone	
Animals in zone	