



Marine life transcript

The rocky shores around Yorkshire and other areas of the UK, are home to a fascinating array of creatures that thrive in this watery marine **habitat**. So, let's take a look beneath the surface and see what we can find!

These creatures are crabs from a family called **crustaceans**. There are lots of different **species**, or types, of crab and they vary in colour and size. They have a hard outer-shell called an **exoskeleton**, many legs and two big claws at the front. The crabs walk sideways across the bottom of the rock pool, using their claws to feed on algae or dead meat. They also use their claws to defend themselves against **predators** wanting to eat them.

This is an anemone and it also has a unique way of catching its food that can only be seen when they are **submerged**, under water when the tide is in. Anemones are found stuck to rocks. They use their bodies as a big sucker to make sure they are securely in place. To feed anemones use lots of small tentacles, like little arms, which wave about in the water. Each tentacle has a sting in it, which the anemone uses to kill its **prey** like crabs, shrimp and small fish. Once the tide goes out, the anemone retracts the tentacles back into its body, so it looks like a lump of colourful jelly stuck on a rock.

The rocks of rock-pools are also home to plants which live in the salty sea water. These are called seaweeds and they attach themselves to rocks using a root system called a '**hold-fast**' which means the plant will not be washed away by the sea. Sea weeds cover the rocks in different shades of browns, greens and reds. One of the most common types is a brown seaweed called Bladder wrack, which looks a lot like bubble-wrap. It is easily recognisable from its air bladders which help the seaweed to float upright whilst it is **submerged**. Seaweeds play an important role in a rockpool **ecosystem** as they provide food and shelter for other creatures such as grazing **molluscs** to tiny fish.

The fish that make rock-pools their homes are very hardy little creatures. With limited food sources at certain times of the day, these fish will eat anything they can find from seaweed to barnacles and shrimps. They are very shy though! The fish are very well **camouflaged**, blending in perfectly with their environment, which makes them very hard to find. They spend most of their time hiding in crevices, under rocks and seaweed.

So keep your eyes peeled the next time you are at the beach – you never know what amazing marine life you will discover!