

# ROCKPOOL EXPLORER'S CHECKLIST

## FUN FACT

## DID YOU KNOW?

## DID YOU FIND ONE?

STARFISH



**Starfish** may look pretty but they are vicious predators - they can use their legs to pull open mussel shells and then throw their stomach into the shell to digest the mussel!

If a starfish loses an arm it can regrow it.

YES NO

BRITTLE STAR



The starfish's creepy cousin, the **Brittle Star**, is usually found in fairly large numbers under rocks.

Once a brittlestar has decided where to live, it rarely ever leaves.

YES NO

MUSSELS



**Mussels** are one of the most common shellfish you will find on the seashore.

Mussels are filter feeders - they strain tiny plants and animals out of the water for their food, a little like a sieve.

YES NO

SEA LETTUCE



**Sea Lettuce** looks very much like lettuce from the garden. It is usually found attached to rocks.

Be careful when stepping on a rock covered with sea lettuce, it can be VERY slippery!

YES NO

COMMON SHRIMP



It takes a while to be able to actually spot these creatures, so sit quietly by the rockpool without moving and you never know, they might come out to play!

The difference between prawns and shrimp is that shrimp tend to be flattened top to bottom...

YES NO

COMMON PRAWN



More common in rock pools than shrimp, these cheeky little creatures are fun to watch as they squabble with each other.

...where prawns tend to be flattened from side to side.

YES NO

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DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU FIND ONE?

PERIWINKLE



Watch closely as this underwater snail cautiously pokes its tentacles out in search of food... slowly!

People often collect buckets of periwinkles to sell at fishmarkets - they are eaten after boiling and usually taken out of the shell with a pin.

YES NO

PAINTED TOPSHELL



This pretty snail hides under rock overhangs, large stones and seaweed.

It is one of several species of top shells which may be found in and around the rockpool.

YES NO

DOG WHELK



The **Dog Whelk** is a deadly predator! They eat barnacles and mussels with no problems at all!

The difference between whelks and winkles or topshells is that whelks have a groove at their opening and the opening on a winkle is round.

YES NO

PIPEFISH



**Pipefish** can grow up to 15cm long and are usually found hiding under rocks when the tide is out.

Pipefish are related to seahorses.

YES NO

HERMIT CRAB



**Hermit Crabs** have soft bodies and live in the empty shells of other creatures to protect themselves.

Hermit crabs need to change their 'homes' as they grow and it can be interesting to watch 2 crabs fight over a new shell!

YES NO

SEA URCHIN



**Sea Urchins** are usually found under rocks and stones but can also cling onto seaweed and other shell, making them harder to find.

Sea Urchins feed on seaweed and tiny encrusted animals which may live on rocks. The sea urchin's sting can be nasty so don't touch!

YES NO

ANEMONE



**Anemones** look like a blob of coloured jelly when the tide is out but can be found with their tentacles waving around, trying to catch their dinner, when the tide is in!

Anemones only have one gut opening - the stinging tentacles stun the prey and pass it into the mouth, then the waste comes out the same way

YES NO