
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CONNECTIONS TO THE ROCKY SEASHORE

Both fiction and nonfiction books are listed here, since at this age the line blurs between what is strictly reference and what uses a story format to present factual information. With the exception of some myths, the facts are accurate in all the fiction books. Even the fantasy and fiction in the myths, however, provide a wonderful stepping stone for discussion of what is true and how things really are.

Following the literature for children are the Resource Books containing useful photographs and drawings referenced in the materials list of various activities.

FICTION

Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing

by Judith Barrett

Macmillian, New York. 1974

Grades: Preschool-1

Pictures of animals wearing clothing show why this would be a ridiculous habit for them to adopt. It also is very funny and makes a good connection about what is needed, and not, to survive in certain habitats. This book makes a wonderful Beyond the Activities exercise in the MARE activity "A Snail's Place."

Follow Me!

by Nancy Tafuri

Greenwillow Books, New York. 1990

Grades: Preschool-1

In this beautiful, wordless picture book, a young sea lion follows a wandering crab over a rocky beach to a whole group of crabs, who then run off into the sea. Young readers and language-minority students will enjoy telling themselves the story from the pictures, and identifying the animals they spot. More proficient readers and writers can write text to go with each page.

A House for Hermit Crab

by Eric Carle

Picture Book Studio, Saxonville, Mass. 1987

Grades: Preschool-2

In this picture book by a well-loved author, Hermit Crab finds that he has grown too big for his shell. He finds a new one, and decorates it with many plants and animals he meets in his travels. By the time his new home is

perfect, he has outgrown it, and passes it on to a smaller hermit crab, while he moves into a new, larger shell. The brightly colorful illustrations show a profusion of ocean dwellers, many of which are described in more detail in notes at the end of the book. This works well read aloud, and the illustrations are large enough and colorful enough to be easily seen at the back of the room.

Just So Stories

by Rudyard Kipling

Puffin Books, New York. 1987

Grades: Preschool–9

In “The Crab Who Played with the Sea,” the Great Magician assigns each animal its role on Earth; however, the crab, which is gigantic, gets bored and leaves. Twice a day it gets hungry and leaves its watery world and, naturally, the water level around the world falls. When it returns home the water goes up. Since the Great Magician has already assigned the Moon the job of controlling the tides, the crab is causing havoc. Once the Great Magician figures out who has been “playing” with the sea, he corrects the problem. The characteristics of crabs are wonderfully explained as is the motion of the tides. The language may be a bit tough for the youngest students, but the tale is amusingly told, and it works well read aloud. It serves nicely as an introduction not only to crabs and how they live, but how the tides affect people and animals around the world.

The Magic Schoolbus at the Waterworks

by Johanna Cole

Scholastic, New York. 1986

Grades: K–6

When Ms. Frizzle, the strangest teacher in school, take s her class on a field trip to the waterworks, everyone ends up experiencing the water purification system fromthe inside. Evaporation, the wter cycle, and filtration are just a few of the concepts touched upon in this whimsical fantasy field trip.

My Friend the Penguin

My Friend the Manatee

My Friend the Polar Bear

My Friend the Porpoise

My Friend the Sea Otter

My Friend the Walrus

My Friend the Sea Turtle

My Friend the Whale

by Jeffrey Schneider

“Ocean Magic” Books, New York. 1991

Grades: Preschool–K

Each book in this series of small board books contain a rhyme about a particular animal. Although none of the animals in the series live at the rocky seashore, they are a wonderful introduction to the world of the ocean. Each

book consists of ten pages, each with one very short line of text. Illustrations are simple yet accurate, very colorful, and appealing to very young children. There is a bit of information about the animal in question—what it eats, where it lives, and something about its physical appearance. There is an accompanying set of masks and a cassette tape with a song about each animal (“Daughters Of The Water, Sons Of Sea “) that complements the books. An easy classroom activity might have the children use the format of these books to invent more rhymes about the animals or about other sea creatures.

Pagoo

by Holling Clancy Holling

Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 1957

Grades: 1-5

Younger children can enjoy this as a read-aloud chapter book, a section each day. This story of the life of a hermit crab is a modern classic; from the time of Pagoo’s hatching until the cycle is complete and Pagoo’s children hatch. Descriptions of the abundant life of the oceans are illustrated with many exquisitely detailed pencil drawings in every margin, and there are many full-page colored illustrations as well. The writing is so full of sensory detail—taste, texture, color, light quality—as to bring the world of the hermit crab into vivid reality in the mind of the reader (or the listener). And there is drama as well: Pagoo’s many escapes from animals of all sizes who view him as food, just as he views smaller animals as food; Pagoo’s searches for a new shell to fit his growing body; and his skirmish with the danger of fresh rain water. As memorable and exciting as a good novel—but this is real.

The Snail’s Spell

by Joanne Ryder; illustrated by Lynne Cherry

Scholastic, New York. 1982

Grades: Preschool-3

In a beautifully and simply worded text, the reader is asked to take an imaginative journey into the body and life of a snail. Imagine, we are asked, that we are shrinking down, that we have teeth on our tongue, that we are boneless and soft. Winner of the Outstanding Book for Young Children by the New York Academy of Sciences, this irresistible invitation to participate in the world of a completely different animal can become a favorite classroom activity. Don’t stop with snails! Though this book is about land snails, it can serve as an introduction to your study of the marine snails that live in tidepools.

Why the Tides Ebb and Flow

by Joan Chase Bowden

Houghton Mifflin, New York. 1979

Grades: K-3

This African folktale with its flowing language, humorous situations, and repeated rhymes has an irresistible charm. A very stubborn old woman has been promised a rock to shelter her from the weather, and she chooses the very

rock that none of the Sky Spirits want to give her—the rock that plugs the hole in the bottom of the sea. Her humorous persistence finally wins her all she wants and more. This will be enjoyed by children of all ages and make a favorite classroom read-aloud.

Why the Crab Has No Head

by Barbara Knutson,
Carolrhoda, New York. 1987
Grades: Preschool-3

This African folktale, told by the Bakongo people of Zaire, relates the story of Crab, who, in the beginning-time when the animals were being made, boasted so much about the wonderful head he would have, that the exasperated Nzambi Mpungu left him with no head at all. This humorous tale is told in language easy to read and easy to understand; a good read-aloud.

NONFICTION

Exploring an Ocean Tide Pool

by Jeanne Bendick
Holt, New York. 1992
Grades: 2–5

An ocean tidepool is described, with all its interdependent plants and animals, using easily understood terms and simple, accurate explanations. Many drawings and diagrams are included: a “map” (cross-section) of a typical tidepool; why tides occur; photosynthesis; and various types of animals. There are also some color photographs of common tide pool inhabitants. Two chapters are devoted to a topic of great interest to young readers—who eats whom and how. This would be a good choice to read aloud one chapter at a time, since it can be understood and enjoyed even by children too young to read it.

Hermit Crabs

by Sylvia A. Johnson
Lerner Publications, Minneapolis. 1989
Grades: 1-5

Plentifully illustrated with excellent color photographs, a few drawings and a diagram, this is a useful and interesting description of hermit crabs, their physical structure, habitat, and behaviors. Younger children will need to have many terms explained to them, but these terms are defined in a glossary which also includes a pronunciation guide. Children who have read *Pagoo* (cited here) will be interested in the additional information about many kinds of hermit crabs, especially since the photographs illustrate some of the actions that take place in *Pagoo*. Winner of the Outstanding Book for Young Children by the New York Academy of Sciences.

Life in a Tidal Pool

by Alvin and Virginia Silverstein

Little, Brown, Boston. 1990

Grades: 3-7

Although the language and reading level are suited for older elementary children, younger listeners who are already fascinated by the topic will enjoy having parts of this read to them. The many carefully detailed illustrations are beautiful to look at as well as being informative; some descriptions, such as that of the ghost crab, are interesting to any age reader.

Nature Hide and Seek: Oceans

by John Norris Wood and Mark Harrison

Knopf, New York. 1985

Grades: Preschool-3

The book opens to a double-page ocean floor scene. Open the fold-out flaps on either side and hiding behind the fronds of seaweed or an anemone-covered rock is—what kind of creature? This is a fascinating introduction to the ways animals protect themselves. In-between pages contain information about animals shown in the picture pages. Some are unusual, some more common, but all are interesting and all are described. This will be very popular in the classroom, either to use with small groups or for individual reading. Many of the animals pictured in the first few pages (e.g., sea slug, hermit crab, octopus) can be seen at the rocky seashore.

Origami Sea Life

by John Montroll and Robert J. Lang

Dover, New York. 1990 (2nd ed.)

Grades: All ages

Detailed step-by-step instructions are given for making origami figures of many different forms of sea life, with their difficulty level indicated from “simple” to “very complex.” Included are many rocky seashore animals. Only two figures are considered simple: a tadpole, and a tadpole with legs. Teachers who enjoy paper-folding or would like to learn can use these figures very effectively in storytelling and presenting information to children; most children will be extremely attentive while someone is showing them an origami fiddler crab, or giant clam, or the very complex and impressive blackdevil angler! But any who are intending to do these figures in front of a class had better practice, practice, practice—they aren’t easy.

Sea Animals

by Angela Royston,

Aladdin Books, New York. 1992

Grades: Preschool-1

Here is a first look at eight popular sea animals, three of which live at or visit the rocky seashore: crab, sea gull, and sea star. Each animal, shown in a

detailed close-up color photograph spread over two pages, is described in a paragraph of large type, simply worded text. On each page, small inserts show close-ups of interesting parts of the animal, such as the pincer of the crab, the mouth and tube feet of the sea star, the nostrils, gills, and tail of the bullhead shark. The term “sea animals” is used rather loosely—one of the eight animals is a sea gull.

Seashore

by Steve Parker

Knopf, New York. 1989

Grades: All ages

As is generally the case in this Eyewitness series, the photographs are the main focus of this book: many, clear, amazingly close-up in some cases, amazingly detailed in all. You see the enormous variety of living conditions created by the many variable factors of waves, currents, tides, climate, and types of rock or sand, and the adaptations plants and animals have made to these habitats. Although much of the book is devoted to plants and animals living in rocky habitats, there is also a good representation of sandy beach inhabitants: marine turtles, seals, clams, and others. Each page contains many photographs of different sizes, each explained in a paragraph of very small typeface; each topic is introduced by a few paragraphs of well-written text, apparently meant for adult readers. However, the pictures are so intriguing that children will want to know about them, and a teacher could easily interpret the text.

Seashore Identifier

by Bob Lollo

Mallard Press, New York. 1992

Grades: All ages

This beautifully illustrated book clearly and easily spells out the sights you can find on the seashore. The chapter “The Rocky Coast” is excellent with its close-up photos and descriptions of the various animals dealt with in this MARE guide. If you are able to take your class to the rocky seashore this “identifier” will be invaluable. Although it is written for adults, the pictures are so intriguing and beautiful that children will want to know about them, and the text could easily be interpreted by you. It would work well with nearly every activity—just pick out the photo and description of the animal discussed in the particular activity.

Shell

by Alex Arthur

Knopf, New York. 1989

Grades: All ages

Like the other Eyewitness books in this series, the photographs are truly amazing: clear and close-up, all the details of structure are clearly shown, including interior views if those are what is notable about the particular shell.

Shelled creatures shown range from tiny snails to large lobsters and turtles (many of which live at or visit the rocky seashore); objects made from shells, ways in which shell shapes and patterns aid in camouflage, and fossil shells are all presented. The text consists mainly of one-paragraph captions explaining the photographs, and the extremely small typeface as well as the vocabulary appear intended for adult reading. However, even very young children will find their curiosity stimulated by the photographs, and teachers can easily explain their meaning.

Tide Pool Life

by Carol and Paul Burton

Opportunities for Learning, Chatsworth, California. 1983

Out of Print, but available on loan from the MARE library

Grades: Preschool-4

This coloring book (black and white illustrations for more than 30 tidepool animals are included) is packed full of information and games centered around the life found in a tidepool. The descriptions below the illustrations contain information on what to color each animal as well as information on its habits and lifestyle. The pages can be easily copied for your class.

Tide Pools

by Ronald Rood

HarperCollins, New York. 1983

Grades: Preschool-5

This simple yet factual description of life within a tidepool has colorful illustrations to match. Very young students can listen to the friendly text, and new readers will enjoy it on its own. Straightforward descriptions of tidepool animals really make them come alive. The final chapter on how to visit a tidepool, and the care visitors must take, is a wonderful conclusion to this enjoyable book. It also provides some background for the MARE activity Trouble at the Tidepools.

When the Tide Is Low

by Sheila Cole

Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, New York. 1985

Grades: K-3

A mother explains to her child that they must wait until low tide to go to the beach. After talking about tides, they discuss the animals that can be seen at low tide: anemones and mussels, little fish that hide from the bigger fish, hermit crabs, urchins, and more. This very simple introduction can be used with the youngest children, and is illustrated with softly colored detailed watercolors showing each animal mentioned in the text. At the end, there is a two-page illustrated "glossary," which describes each animal mentioned in the text in a short paragraph each, so that teachers can follow up by giving more information on the different animals.

Where the Waves Break: Life at the Edge of the Sea

by Anita Malnig

Carolrhoda Books, Boston. 1984

Grades: 1-5

This series is known for its excellent photographs; and this book is no exception. Close-up and detailed views of tidepool animals are fascinating: we see the underside of a snail, the suction cups at the ends of a sea star's feet, the five-toothed mouth of a sea urchin, and much more. The many different kinds of sponges, urchins, and sea stars are on view giving a real sense of the tidepool's profusion of life. The text is simple and explanatory, easily understood by young children. Two pages at the end introduce and briefly explain the concept of scientific classification.

RESOURCE BOOKS

One Small Square Seashore

by Donald Silver

W.H. Freeman and Company. New York. 1993

Kelp Forests

by Judith Connor and Charles Baxter

Monterey Bay Aquarium. Monterey, CA. 1989.

Shells of North American Shores

by Katherine Orr

Stemmer House, Owning Mills, Maryland, 1989

Seashore Life on Rocky Coasts

by Judith Conner

Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, CA. 1993

Beachcomber's Guide to the Gulf Coast Marine Life

by Nick Fotheringham and Susan Brunenmeister

Gulf Coast Co., Houston. 1989

Beachcomber's Guide the California Coast

by Thomas M. Niesen

by Nick Fotheringham and Susan Brunenmeister

Gulf Coast Co., Houston. 1994