

## Seashore



Picture  
 Many seashores act as nurseries, supplying young animals with food and protection.

A seashore is a place where the land and the sea meet. A seashore is changing all the time. As the sea rolls in at high tide, much of the shore becomes part of the ocean. At low tide, the sea withdraws, and the same area again becomes part of the land. Seashores can be rocky, muddy, or sandy.

Rocky shores have more kinds of living things than other types of seashores. Many animals, including barnacles, mussels, oysters, sea squirts, and *sponges* <<SPUHNJ uhz>> , spend their lives firmly fastened to the shore. Others, such as *chitons* <<KY tuhonz>> , limpets, sea *anemones* <<uh NEHM uh neez>> , sea urchins, and starfish, also fasten themselves to the shore. However, these creatures can move short distances. Large seaweeds, such as kelp and rock weeds, cling to the shore. Many kinds of worms and other creatures burrow, or dig, into the rock and coral. Others squeeze themselves into cracks.





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Grasses and mangrove trees grow on muddy shores. Crabs and turtles live among these plants, while clams and worms burrow in the mud.

Fewer living things are found on sandy beaches. Most plants and animals cannot fasten themselves firmly enough in loose sand. Creatures that live on sandy shores, including clams, crabs, and sand dollars, usually burrow under the sand.

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