



Waldo County 4-H Program
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Putting knowledge to work with the people of Maine

Explore a Tide Pool

Purpose of activity: The purpose of this activity is to explore tide pools along the intertidal coastline. In this activity, youth will explore what a tide pool is and what type of plants and animals live there.

What is a tide pool?

Tide pools are rocky pools on the seashore that are filled with seawater when the ocean tide goes out, creating low tide. Tide pools often have plants and animals living in the pool that have to adapt to environmental extremes like the hot sun on a summer day and predators such as seagulls. Plants that grow in tide pools include seaweed, algae, and sea grass. Animals that live in tide pools might be periwinkles, crabs, starfish, barnacles, and more.

Materials:

An interactive On-line Tide Pool experience of your choice.

- [PBS Interactivities: Exploring Tide Pools](#)
- [What is a Tide Pool?](#)
- [Tide Pool Ocean Adventure Children or Kids Activity](#)
- [Ecosystem of California: Intertidal](#)
- [Green Crab discovery with Tidepool Tim, Gulf of Maine Inc](#)
- [Intertidal snails with Tidepool Tim, Gulf of Maine Inc](#)
- [Tidal Pool Scavenger Hunt Handout](#)

Instructions:

1. Take an adventure and explore tide pools. Choose one interactive on-line resource to view or take your family on an adventure to the nearest coastline and look for tidepools. If you and your family are preparing for a beach trip, make sure you bring appropriate beach clothes, shoes with non-slip tread, and sun protection.
2. While on your tide pool exploration, complete the [Tide Pool Scavenger Hunt](#).
3. When you return from your tide pool adventure or are finished exploring tide pools virtually, move on to the second activity and make a replica of your tide pool.



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Make A Tide Pool

Purpose of activity: The purpose of this activity is to create a tide pool replica using household items or items collected from the beach. Youth will have the opportunity to learn about what lives in tide pools and how tide pools are formed.

Materials:

- Blue paper plates (or white paper plates colored blue)
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Sand
- Optional: collected beach items that are not alive

Instructions:

1. Use your blue paper plate to represent the water in your tide pool. This water is water that is caught in the rocks when the tide goes out.
2. Do you know what lives in a tide pool? Draw and color the animals and plants that you saw on your tide pool adventure in your tide pool.
3. Apply glue around the rim of the plate and cover with beach sand.
4. Glue collected beach items to the tide pool area or beach area.

Extended Challenge:

- Share your tide pool with others. Show others what animals, plants, and objects are in your tide pool.
- Identify and label the items in your tide pool.
- Do extended research to identify the items in your tide pool. Can you learn what they eat or where they live?