

Predators and prey in the Sandy Shore

All animals need food to survive. How do sandy shore animals find food and avoid becoming someone else's meal? Visit the Aviary and observe the animals living there. What structures (body parts) do you notice?

Draw two different bird beaks that you observe on shorebirds in the Aviary. Which beak would be best for finding food deep in sand or mud? Why?

What colors are most common on the feathers of the shorebirds in the Aviary? Why?

Humans may not be predators of shorebirds but we do have an impact on their homes. Discuss with your group some ways we can have both positive or negative impacts on our shore bird habitats.

Write one positive way you can help coastal animals.

Self-Guided Observation Guide

GRADES 6-8



Aggregating anemone
Anthopleura elegantissima



Monterey
Bay
Aquarium

Surviving on the shore

NAME(S):



Life on the coast is challenging. Animals contend with crashing waves, rising and falling tides and hungry predators. At the same time, they need to search for food. How do animals survive? Use this booklet to discuss and explore life on the shore.

Waves on the Rocky Shore

The force of the waves is a challenge for coastal animals. Look at the smaller windows in the Rocky Shore exhibit to find out how animals survive crashing waves.



Find an abalone and a surf perch. What different strategies do they use to survive in the pounding waves?

What are some examples of other rocky shore animals that use the same strategy as an abalone?



Spin the wheel in the barnacle exhibit. Describe how barnacles and other filter feeders take advantage of the surge of the waves.

Tides on the Rocky Shore

Rising and falling tides expose rocky shore animals to different challenges and opportunities. Look at the Rocky Shore exhibits to find out how animals survive tidal changes.

What does an anemone do when it's low tide?



Can you name any other animals that use a similar strategy?

One way animals reduce competition for resources is by staying in a specific area, or zone, within a habitat. Go to the outside of the Wave Crash exhibit. Which animals do you find above the water (high tide line) or below the water (low tide line)?

High tide animals:



Low tide animals: