



***Marine Matters* Oceans Education Program**
Curriculum 2 Outline
Intertidal Habitats

Lesson 1 • Structure and Behavior of Marine Animals

Relationship between structure and behavior of intertidal animals and their survival adaptations:

- retreat into shell
- detect and flee enemies
- maintain body armour
- seek shelter
- camouflage

Lesson 2 • Movement of Marine Animals

Comparison of the way different animals move:

- adaptations, ways of moving, reasons to move
- fish versus whale
- use contrasting examples such as sea star, clam, crab and marine worm

Lesson 3 • Types of Shoreline Habitats

Identify shoreline habitats along Haida Gwaii/QCI and the animals that live there.

Name intertidal zones and small scale habitats:

- identify different types of habitat (rocky shore, sandy beach, eel grass bed)
- small scale habitats (tide pools, on or under rocks, in crevices, among seaweed)
- intertidal zones (spray, high tide, middle tide, low tide zones) How is each area different? What animals live where?

Lesson 4 • Rocky Shore Habitat

Locate and identify where different animals choose to live and predict why they live there:

- limiting factors such as temperature, drying out, salinity, competition for food and space
- adaptations of rocky shore animals and seaweed

Lesson 5 • Sandy Beach

Identify plants and animals on a sandy beach and describe limiting factors on a sandy beach:

- limiting factors such as no hard places to attach, crashing surf, abrasive sand
- types of animals that live there
- adaptations of sandy beach animals and plants



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Lesson 6 • Eelgrass Bed

Characteristics of an eelgrass bed, the creatures that live there and their adaptations:

- limiting factors such as many predators
- why an eelgrass bed is considered a nursery and why so many animals live there
- contrast a protected sandy beach to exposed sandy beach
- who lives there
- adaptations of eelgrass community members

Lesson 7 • Mud Flats

Characteristics of a mud flat, creatures that live there and their adaptations:

- limiting factors such as low oxygen, fresh water, pollution, salinity, no hard surfaces to attach to
- adaptations of animals that live in mud flats

Lesson 8 • Beach Etiquette

Understanding of beach etiquette when exploring the intertidal:

- care and handling of marine animals
- needs and wants (of people and marine animals)
- to collect or not to collect?
- guardianship of the shore “What can I do?”
- stewardship

Field Trip • Focus on an intertidal area near each school

Observe and identify marine animals and habitats on a nearby beach.

- review etiquette
- explore, locate and identify marine animals
- look for clues ie. a sea star leg, a clam shell with a hole drilled into it