



# Find out more about a Coastal Creature



## Learning Intention

- Learn about the variety of creatures that can be found at the seashore.

## National Curriculum Skills

**English** – Write for a range of purposes.

**Science** – Communicate clearly using relevant scientific vocabulary.

- Through fieldwork, they should be given the opportunity to study the plants and animals in two contrasting local environments.

**ICT** – Use ICT to further their understanding of information they have retrieved and gathered.

**Geography** – Identify similarities and differences to describe, compare and contrast places and environments.

**ESDGC** – The natural environment.

## Activity Outline

- \* Research a marine or coastal creature.
- \* Sequence information to make a report.
- \* Create a class list of animals that live at the seaside.
- \* Use books and website sources.
- \* Encourage pupils to give a group oral report of one creature.

## Resources

Research materials, a range of books from the school library, local library or E.L.R.S

A range of websites - do a 'google' search to find suitable websites before hand

The Starfish 'creature feature' text and blank templates

*A seashore guide to Neath Port Talbot* booklet (.pdf format)

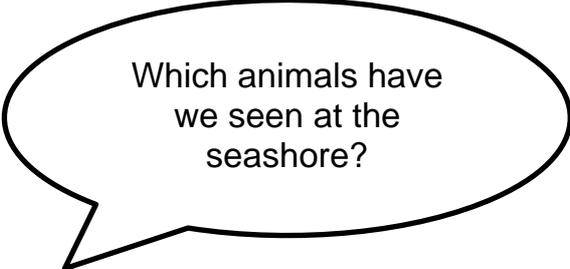
The blank oral report frame (from the *resources* folder)



# Find out more about a Marine Animal

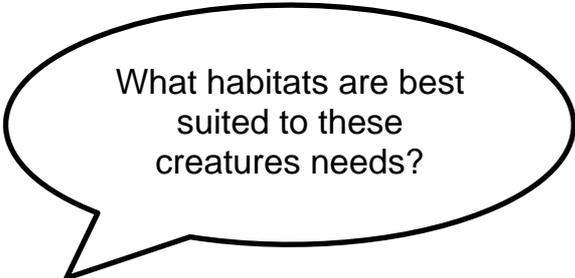
## Lesson Outline

- Create a class list of animals the class know live at the seaside.

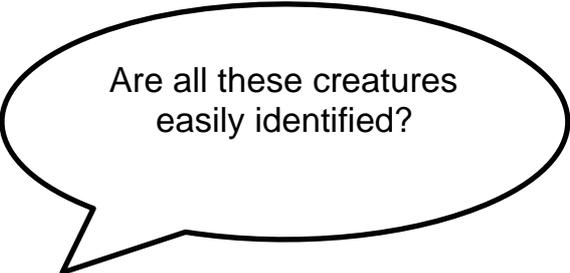


Which animals have we seen at the seashore?

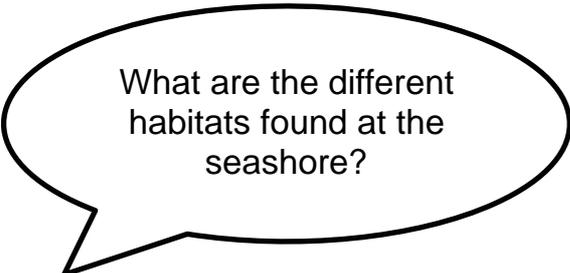
- Read over the 'starfish' creature feature, then get the children to order the information using the starfish template.
- Ask the class, in pairs or small groups, to use the blank template to create a profile of a different creature from the class list.
- Using reference books/ internet search engines (Google), they research their chosen creature, finding out -
  - the kind of coastal habitat it would live in
  - the food it eats and any natural predators
  - any adaptations it has to suit its environment
  - the type of conditions it needs to survive.
- They then create a coastal creature profile, either using the template provided or by designing their own.
- Once the pupils have completed their creature profiles, discuss what they have found out, did they find any threats that the animals face?



What habitats are best suited to these creatures needs?



Are all these creatures easily identified?



What are the different habitats found at the seashore?

The common starfish is orange in colour and is occasionally seen with missing arms.

Generally starfish have five arms. These arms are hollow, covered with short spines and have rows of tube feet on the underside with suckers at the tips.

In the past when caught by fishermen they would be chopped up and thrown overboard in an attempt to reduce numbers.

Starfish can be found in rock pools and on beaches. They can often be found amongst mussel beds and barnacles on British shores

The habitat varies and includes coarse and shelly gravel and rock.

*Creature Feature*

# The Starfish

Starfish are active carnivores, and scavenge too.

Starfish have a phenomenal ability to regenerate. They can re-grow arms that have been chopped off.

Starfish are propelled very slowly along the sea floor by their tiny tube feet.

Common starfish feed on mussels, crustaceans, worms and other echinoderms.

The central mouth of the starfish is underneath the upper body.

The common starfish has perfected the skill of opening bivalves and inserting its stomach into the shell. The bivalve's body is partially digested and later pulled into the starfish for complete digestion.

Starfish have a good sense of smell, which help it locate its prey and avoid predators.

Tube feet can produce strong suction, fixing the starfish in place and making it difficult for a predator to eat it.

Starfish do not possess jaws and depending on the species digest food in different ways. Starfish have the ability to push their stomachs out of their mouths in order to digest prey too big to swallow.

A single female is capable of releasing up to 2.5 million eggs.

The name 'starfish' is given to a class of echinoderms known as the Asteroidea.

# The Starfish



Description

Size

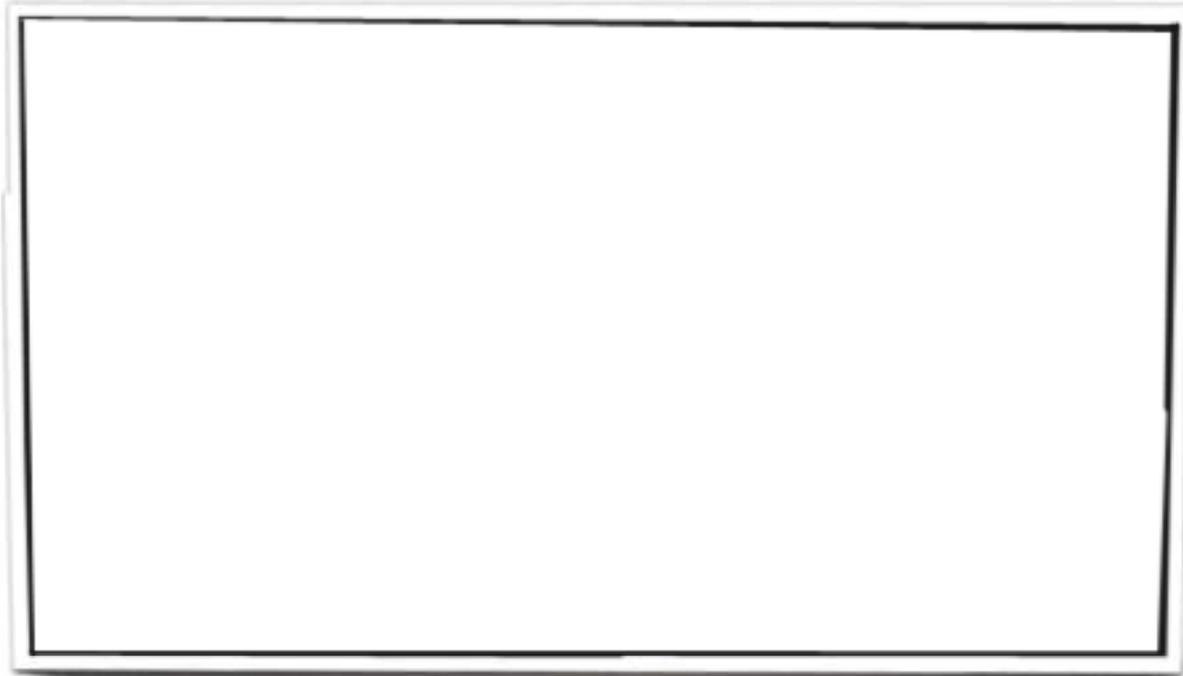
Habitat

Diet

Breeding

Additional Information

# The \_\_\_\_\_



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