

tidepool **environment** by disguising itself as a harmless flower or plant, similar in color and appearance to other marine plants. But the sea anemone is a **predator** and uses its stinging **tentacles** to capture passing **prey**, like a passing fish or a shrimp. The octopus has exceptional **camouflage** capabilities for hunting **prey** and hiding from predators. They can change their shape and color patterns within seconds to match their surrounding environment. The octopus can also squirt clouds of black ink to confuse and dull the senses of unwelcome predators. The sea urchin is covered with hundreds of sharp **spines** that serve as an **adaptation** to discourage many potential predators. As a plant-eater, the sea urchin has adapted to rocky tidepools by developing five sharp, teeth to grind away at the rocks and dig a home to protect itself from the pounding surf.

Activity 1:

Have students work on the *Worksheet: Which Animals Live in Tidepools?*

- Make copies of the worksheet handout and distribute to your students.
- When the sheet is completed, discuss which animals make the tidepool their home and which animals live in another habitat.

Answer Key: **Anemone, Urchin, Sea star, Clam, Barnacle, Snail, Octopus, Crab**
(the Gull is a visitor, not a resident)

Activity 2:

Ask students to answer the following questions about tidepool animal adaptations.

Answers in **BOLD**.

- Barnacles have (**exoskeletons**, bones, or borrowed shells) which protect them from predators.
- Sea stars fasten themselves onto the rocks when the tide goes out with (legs, **tube feet**, or hooks) so that they can't be washed away.
- The octopus protects itself from predators by (hissing like a snake, throwing out its guts, or **squirting ink into the water**).
- The sea urchin has (three, four, or **five**) sharp teeth which it uses to dig a home for itself in the rock.
- The sea anemone looks like a marine plant, but it is actually a predatory animal, with stinging tentacles to capture passing (predators, people, or **prey**).

Extensions: Coloring Sheets, Crosswords, Word searches

- Check out the many activities on Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's website