

Rocky Intertidal Station Suggested Outline

"Let's all go wash our hands." (rinse only no soap)

"We have lots of exciting animals to look at today, but before we talk about them, let's talk about a few important things about the intertidal zone. It's also important that everyone keep their hands out of the bowls of water unless I say we can touch the animals."

"Who has been to the ocean?"

"Who knows what the intertidal zone is?"

- The area of land that is covered with water at high tide and exposed at low tide

Show photograph of Puerto Penasco and compare to our "tidepool box"

"Who knows what causes the tides?"

- Pull of the sun and moon on liquid (water) part of the earth's surface

"When are the tides greatest?"

- during new and full moons ("spring tides")

"What types of things do animals that live in the intertidal zone have to deal with?" "What types of dangers are there?"

- wave action
- drying out (desiccation) when the tides are low
- change in temperatures
- predation

"There are all animals that live in the intertidal zone at Rocky Point." "Who can tell me what some of them are?" "What else do you know about them?"

At this point, go through the animals one at a time, ask students questions dealing with life in the intertidal zone (see those below). Collect ideas and answers from the kids to help lead the discussion. They will often know a lot!

"How do you think this animal protects itself from being eaten by other animals?"

"How do you think this animal protects itself from crashing waves?"

"How do you think this animal protects itself from drying out?"

Some of the animals can be taken out of the bowls and passed around, especially the snails and hermit crabs. Give each kid a snail or hermit crab in the circle and have them describe what the animal is doing and how it feels.