Worksheet 3 Reading Comprehension Year 3

Rockpools

Have you ever wanted to be an explorer? Would you like to study fascinating creatures in their natural habitat? Next time you have a chance to go to the beach, look at the tiny oceans that exist in the rock pools.

Rock pools are formed when the sea fills spaces between rocks and forms small pools. These become home for some very adaptable sea creatures. They have to suit life underwater, when the tide is in, and survive for a while on dry rocks, when the tide is out.

Limpets and barnacles are tiny shellfish that cling to rocks. All you can see of them are their shells, so they sometimes look like part of the rocks themselves. They move over the surface of the rocks eating the tiny plants on them. They move so slowly, though, that you'll never notice.

Mussels are also shellfish. They have smooth, dark shells – but sometimes barnacles cling to them too! Mussels open their shells very slightly so the sea can wash in the tiny creatures they eat.

Starfish have soft bodies covered in tiny, hard spines. They look like stars because of the way their legs are spread out. Most starfish have five or six legs, but some kinds have up to 40!

Crab scuttle sideways to get around. They have thick shells that cover their soft bodies, eight legs and two pincers. They use their pincers to crack open shellfish to eat. Sometimes they catch small fish, too. You may even see a hermit crab in a rock pool. These crabs find and move into different shells as they grow.

Despite their protective shells, creatures in rock pools are in danger from gulls and other sea birds. Gulls are predators in this environment. They can swoop down quickly on crabs and smash their shell against rocks. Their strong beak can peck at shellfish to reach the soft creatures inside.

Creatures that live in the rock pools are also hurt by people. If you do go to explore, remember to leave them safe and happy in their pools.

1. **Read the sentences and choose the correct word to fill in the gap.**

Look back at paragraph 2 to find the correct answer.

Rock pools are _____ when the sea fills spaces between the rocks and form small pools.

These become home for some very _____ sea creatures.

They have to suit life _____, when the tide is in,

and survive for a while on dry rocks, when the _____ is out.

Look back at paragraph 6 and 7 to find the correct answer.

_____ have soft bodies covered in tiny, hard spines.

They look like _____ because of the way their legs are spread out.

Most starfish have five or six _____, but some kinds have up to 40!

_____ scuttle sideways to get around.

They have thick _____ that cover their soft bodies, eight legs and two pincers.

Look back at paragraph 8 to find the correct answer.

Despite their protective shells, creatures in rock pools are in danger from _____ and other sea birds.

They can _____ down quickly on crabs and smash their shells against rocks.

Their string _____ can peck at starfish to reach the soft

_____ inside.

2. **Label the information with the correct rock pool inhabitant.**

Smooth, dark shells	
Tiny, hard spines	
Catches small fish	
Can smash shells	
Look like rocks	
Can be hurt by people	

3. **Label the information with the correct rock pool inhabitant.**

Scuttles sideways	
Spreads out its legs	
Cracks open shellfish	
Moves slowly	
Opens their shells slightly	
Eats tiny plants	

Answers

1.

1. formed 2. adaptable 3. underwater 4. tide
5. starfish 6. stars 7. legs 8. crabs
9. shells 10. gulls 11. swoops 12. beaks
13. creatures

2.

Mussels

Starfish

Crabs

Gulls

Limpets and barnacles

Creatures (in rock pools)

3.

Crabs

Starfish

Crabs

Limpets and barnacles

Mussels

Limpets and barnacles