

# California Tide Pools

Tide pools are found on rocky shores between the high and low tide, an area also known as the intertidal zone. Tide pools are fun to explore when you are at the beach. They have a lot of exciting marine life for visitors to see, but the animals that live in this unique habitat are fragile and need to be respected.

## Common Tide Pool Animals Along Our Coast



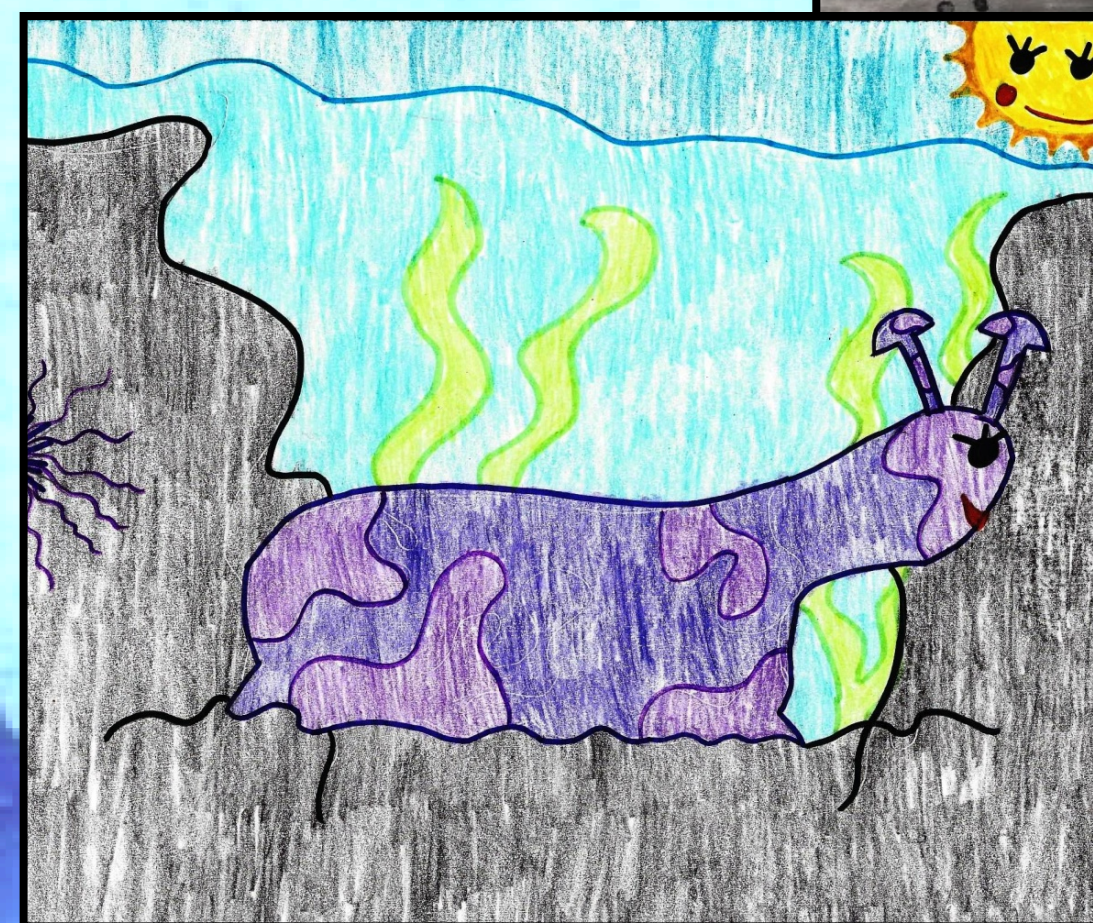
*Bat Sea Star*  
12<sup>th</sup> grade student from Sierra High

**Sea Stars** are top predators in our tide pools. They use hundreds of flexible tubes called tube feet to pry apart mussels and other prey. If you find a sea star, don't pull it off the rocks. You can break the tube feet that help it hold onto rocks.



*Sunburst Anemone*  
12<sup>th</sup> grade student from Sierra High

**Sea Anemones** are related to jellyfish. Anemones feel sticky because of stinging cells that they use to catch their food. But don't worry! Their sting isn't strong enough to hurt us.



*California Sea Hare*  
Ava, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student, Ventura Charter

**Sea Hares** are sea slugs that owe their name to tentacles on their head that look like rabbit ears. Some sea hares can grow to the size of a football. Sea hares produce a purple ink to defend themselves. This ink was used by Native Americans to dye clothing.



## Tide Pool Etiquette

Tide pool habitats are very sensitive to the impact of people; in fact, it can take years for the marine life to recover from trampling. Protect tide pools by watching your step, touching animals gently, carefully replacing animals where you found them, and picking up your trash.

### Watch Your Step

Seaweed-covered rocks are very slippery. Animals like anemones, mussels, and snails can be crushed by stepping on them. When in tide pools, please take care to step on bare rocks or sand for your safety and for the safety of the animals that live there.



### Touch Gently

If you touch an animal in a tide pool, wet your fingers first with seawater. If you turn over a rock, carefully put it back the way you found it. Seaweed and rocks protect the animals below.



### Keep it Clean!

Anyone can help keep the intertidal clean! Always bring a bag with you for your trash.



*Drawings above by Raul Perez & Sergio Amezcua, Ramona Elementary*