THEMATIC UNIT

TIDE POOLS
and CORAL REEFS

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(Available in the UK from Hodder)

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Introduction

*Tide Pools and Coral Reefs* contains a captivating whole language thematic unit. Its 80 exciting pages are filled with a wide variety of lesson ideas and activities designed for use with primary children. At its core are two high-quality children’s literature selections, *A House For Hermit Crab* and *At Home in the Coral Reef*. For each of these books, activities are included which set the stage for reading, encourage the enjoyment of the book, and extend the concepts gained. In addition, the theme is connected to the curriculum with activities in language arts, math, science, social studies, art, music, and life skills. Many of these activities encourage cooperative learning. Suggestions and patterns for games and ideas for a bulletin board are additional time savers for the busy teacher. Furthermore, directions are provided for a culminating activity that allows the students to produce products that can be shared beyond the classroom. All of these activities combine to make this book a very complete teacher resource. This thematic unit includes the following:

- **literature selections**—summaries of two children’s books with related lessons (complete with reproducible pages) that cross the curriculum
- **poetry**—suggested selections and lessons enabling students to write and publish their own works
- **planning guides**—suggestions for sequencing lessons each day of the unit
- **writing ideas**—daily suggestions as well as writing activities across the curriculum, including Big Books
- **curriculum connections**—in language arts, math, science, social studies, art, music, and life skills such as cooking and physical education
- **bulletin board ideas**—suggestions and plans for student-created and/or interactive bulletin boards
- **group projects**—to foster cooperative learning
- **a culminating activity**—which requires students to synthesize their learning to produce a product or engage in an activity that can be shared with others
- **a bibliography**—suggesting additional fiction and nonfiction books on the theme

To keep this valuable resource intact so that it can be used year after year, you may wish to punch holes in the pages and store them in a three-ring binder.
# Things to Look for in a Tide Pool

These are some of the creatures you can find in a tide pool. Take this list to a tide pool or pet shop and see how many of them you can find hidden in the nooks and crannies of the rocky tide pools. Check them off as you find them and write down anything interesting you observe about the animals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Other Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hermit Crab</td>
<td>Hermit crabs do not grow their own shells. They live in shells left by other animals and in hollow objects. They have soft bodies that curl up easily into a snail’s shell. Most are about one inch (2.54 cm) long, but some are bigger.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiton</td>
<td>The chiton holds firmly to the rocks along the shore and in the sea with its large foot. It uses its sharp teeth to scrape algae off the rocks at night. The top of its body has eight overlapping shells. The chiton can roll itself into a ball when in danger.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemone</td>
<td>The anemone is called the flower of the sea. Most are light green or brown. They have wavy tentacles that spread out like the spokes on a wheel. They are meat eaters who wait for small live or dead animals to get caught in the stinging ends of their tentacles.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Things to Look for in a Tide Pool (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Other Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sea Snail</strong></td>
<td>These sea snails are found mainly under rocks. They are about one inch (2.54 cm) long. They have bluish-white shells with a felt-like covering of dark brown.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Octopus</strong></td>
<td>You must look carefully for the gentle octopus. It can change color to blend in with the rocks, seaweed, or coral where it hides. The octopus has no shell. It has very strong, parrot-like jaws and has eight arms that have suckers on them. Most octopuses are only as large as a person’s fist, but some grow as large as 28 feet (8.4 m) from the tip of one arm to another.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sea Stars</strong></td>
<td>Most sea stars or starfish have five arms, which are called rays. They are attached to the central part of their bodies, called the central disc. There are many kinds and colors of sea stars. Some are purple, red, blue, orange, or yellow. They have a stomach in the middle of their bodies. They turn inside out to eat food. Starfish eat oysters, mussels, snails, limpets, crabs, barnacles, and sea urchins.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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