

Low Tide



High Tide



Intertidal Adaptations, courtesy of Cynthia Cudaback, PhD, OceanAndYou.com

I create this drawing in real time, as I show the kids each step. They have already learned the adaptations of intertidal organisms, and we review them while drawing together. After drawing these elements, they are free to add other animals and people.

1. Fold your paper in half crosswise to define two panels.
2. Label the left side “low tide” and right side “high tide”
3. draw your rocks on the right side of each panel
4. Draw the surface of the water, low on the left, high on the right, in blue
5. sea anemones (in red) have their feeding tentacles out at high tide and in at low tide.
6. Seaweeds (in green) are held upright by the water at high tide and flop over at low tide.
7. Mussels (in black) live near the top of the rock. They are open at high tide for feeding and closed at low tide to conserve water.
8. Crabs like to stay near the water’s edge, so they move up and down the rocks with the tide. Make sure your crabs have two claws and eight legs each.
9. Starfish hang out in the lower parts of the rock, so they’re not exposed to the whole low tide, but they don’t change their shape or position much.
10. Fish and octopus are present at high tide, absent at low tide.

PS – the orange snail-like thing at low tide is actually a food stain – sorry!