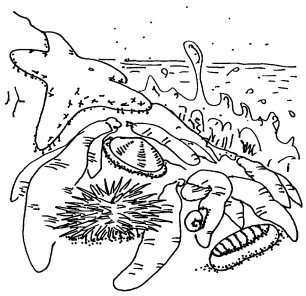
Grade

5-7



Build a Beach

Build class spirit by having your students work together to design and build a rocky intertidal zone habitat for your classroom.

THE goal of this activity is to create a visual ecosystem display for the classroom. Students will have to work together and demonstrate a willingness to communicate with others to reach a common goal. The themes explored in this activity relate to adaptations in the environment, classification of living things, ecosystem interactions and food webs.

MATERIALS

- Newspaper
- Whit e Glue and Water
- Bowls/Tubs
- Paint
- Paint brushes
- Sponges/Rags for clean up
- Grey Sheet/Tarp/Canvas
- Wire mesh (optional)
- Rocks (optional)

Steps

1) Create a rocky shore using the grey sheet/tarp/canvas using the wire mesh and rocks to create a realistic look and feel.

2) Assign the creation of an animal to each student. See *Marine Invertebrate Resources*. Students must learn what the organism looks like, where it lives, and what adaptations it has to that habitat so they can correctly place it in the habitat. Animals can be made out of papier-mâché and painted. Use the following page as a guide for placing your creatures in the rocky intertidal habitat.

3) To make papier-mâché: rip newspapers into strips or small pieces; mix glue with water (2:1 ratio); dip strips of newspaper into glue and water mixture; begin molding animals.

4) Bring some rocks into your class for the base of the intertidal habitat, or assign a group of students to make a mesh and papier-mâché seascape.

5) Add the animals and plants to the appropriate places in your seascape and celebrate the new habitat in your classroom.

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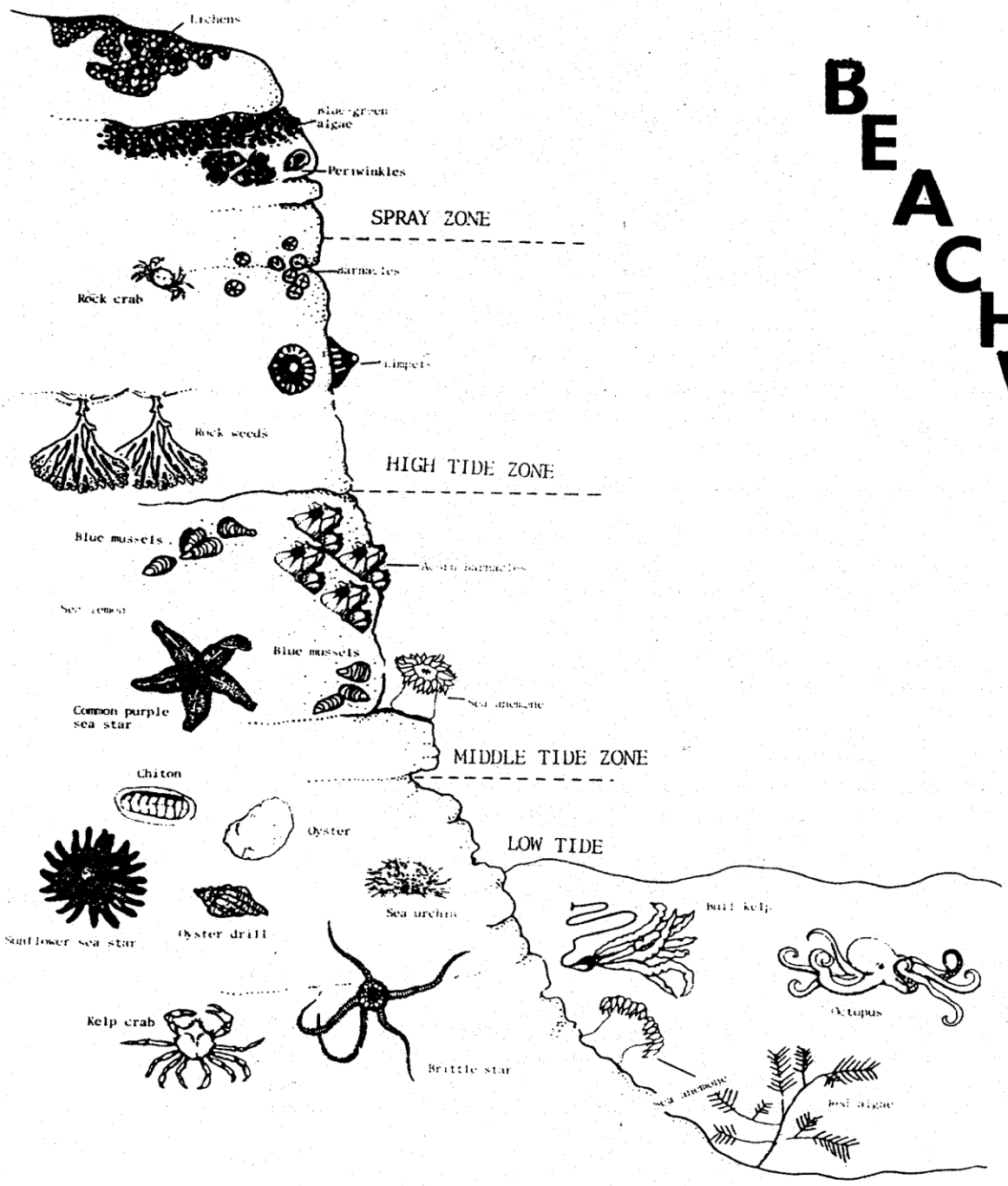
BEACH WALKS



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