# Create your own rock pool scene in a box

You will need:

* A shoe box or slightly larger
* Copies of the rock pool creatures from Resource 3.
* Crayons and paint
* Tape
* Thread
* Scissors
* Optional: pipe cleaners for seaweed, glitter for bubbles, thin card to glue the images on to.

How to make your diorama:

* The box is the stage for your rock pool scene.
* Decorate the inside of the box, painting the sides blue for the sea and the base yellow. You could add seashells found on the beach, small pebbles and dried seaweed.
* You could also paint some seaweed shapes on the sides.
* Print out the rock pool creatures from the Resource 3 (you may need to stick

these to card to stiffen them)

* Colour the creatures and then hang them with cotton thread from the top of the box.

| **Card 1**  I have tube feet that act like suckers; I can lay two million eggs in two hours; I am spiny skinned; I eat shellfish by opening them with my feet; I have five arms and if one gets damaged I can regrow it. |
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| **Card 2**  I have eyes on the ends of stalks; I can run sideways quickly; I carry my eggs under my tail flap; I have eight legs and two claws; I shed my hard shell as I grow. |
| **Card 3**  I have long antennae which help me to spot danger; I shed my skin every two weeks in the summer; I have a transparent body; I escape from predators by moving backwards quickly. |
| **Card 4**  I am an animal but look like a flower; I have 200 tentacles that sting; when the tide is out I look like a small blob of jelly; I catch small fish and shrimps which I place whole into my mouth. |
| **Card 5**  I have a strong foot which uses suction to keep me stuck tightly to rocks; I only move about 1m from my home base, or ‘home scary,’ to eat seaweed; I eat with my rasping tongue. |

# Answers

1. Starfish
2. Crab
3. Prawn
4. Sea anemone
5. Limpet

Cartoon illustrations of seaside creatures 

Hermit Crab - Body length: up to 3cm. Lives inside empty spiral shells, from winkles to whelks; the crab itself is red-orange.

Velvet Swimmer Crab - Shell diameter: 8cm. The upper surface is  blue with a reddish-brown velvety covering. Colour: red-brown. Last joint of back legs is flat and rounded to act as swimming paddle. Aggressive!

Shanny (also called a common blenny) - Body length: up to 16cm. Blunt head and a long dorsal fin. Hides in crevices.

Shore Crab - Shell diameter: up to 8cm. The shell has five ‘teeth’ on each side below the eye. Colour variable, but mostly green.

Limpet - Shell diameter: up to 6cm. Attaches firmly to rocks, creating ‘home scars’. Leaves at high tide to graze algae.

Keelworms - White, smooth, curved tubes, 3-5mm long with a worm inside the tube.

Beadlet anemone - Tentacle length: up to 7cm. Red, brown or green. Tentacles retract into body when exposed at low tide.

Cartoon illustrations of shells found at beach 

Dog whelk - Shell height: up to 4cm. Has a thick rim to the shell mouth. Carnivorous, boring into mussels and barnacles.

Barnacle - Up to 1.5cm diameter. Colour: white to dirty grey.

Purple top Shell - Similar to the Grey top shell. The Purple top Shell has just reached Thanet from SW England
coastline in the last 10-15 years and is now on most beaches. It is a likely indicator of warmer seas - global warming! Shell height: up to 1.5cm. Greyish, conical shell with fine reddish or purple markings. In lower pools.

Common mussel - Shell length: up to 10cm. Flattened, oval, bluish-black shell. Lives in tightly clustered colonies on rocks.

Grey top shell - Shell height: up to 1.5cm. Greyish, conical shell with fine reddish or purple markings. In lower pools.

Prawn - Body length: up to 11cm. Transparent body with fine brown markings. Darts into crevices and seaweed.

Common starfish - Leg span: up to 30cm, but rockpool
specimens are usually smaller. Five limbs are orange with paler stipples.

Piddock burrow holes - Piddock holes made in pieces of chalk.