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Introductions



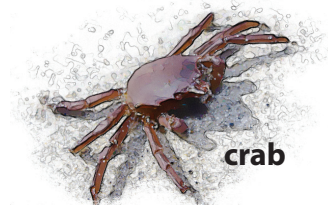
From left to right, Jay and Adam stand on one side of Mr. MacMath. Lisa and Fran stand on the other side.

Meet Jay, Lisa, Adam and Fran.

They are students in Mr. MacMath's class at Central School.

On special field trips, the class likes to **explore** outdoors. The students have fun being nature detectives. Like all detectives, they keep notes about what they discover. Sometimes they make drawings, too.

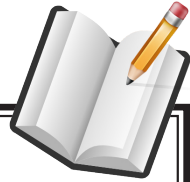
The **seashore** near town is one place the class loves to explore. Different kinds of plants grow there. Animals from **crabs** to **cormorants** live on the seashore. On each visit, the class discovers something new.



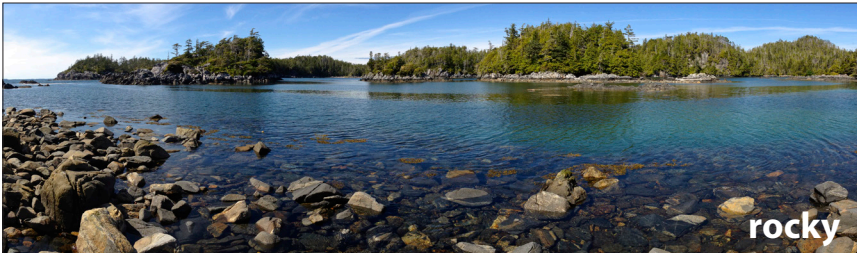
crab



cormorants



MEET THE SEASHORE



The seashore is the land that lies along the sea. At times, sea water covers part of this land. The seashore is an ecosystem, a place with living parts—plants and animals—and non-living parts, such as water, light and soil. Each of these parts affects other parts of the ecosystem. Each is important to a healthy seashore.

There are many seashores along the coast, but they are not all alike. Some are sandy; some are rocky; some are muddy. Different kinds of plants and animals live on different kinds of seashores.

Nature Notes

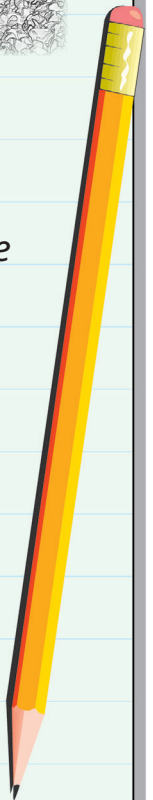


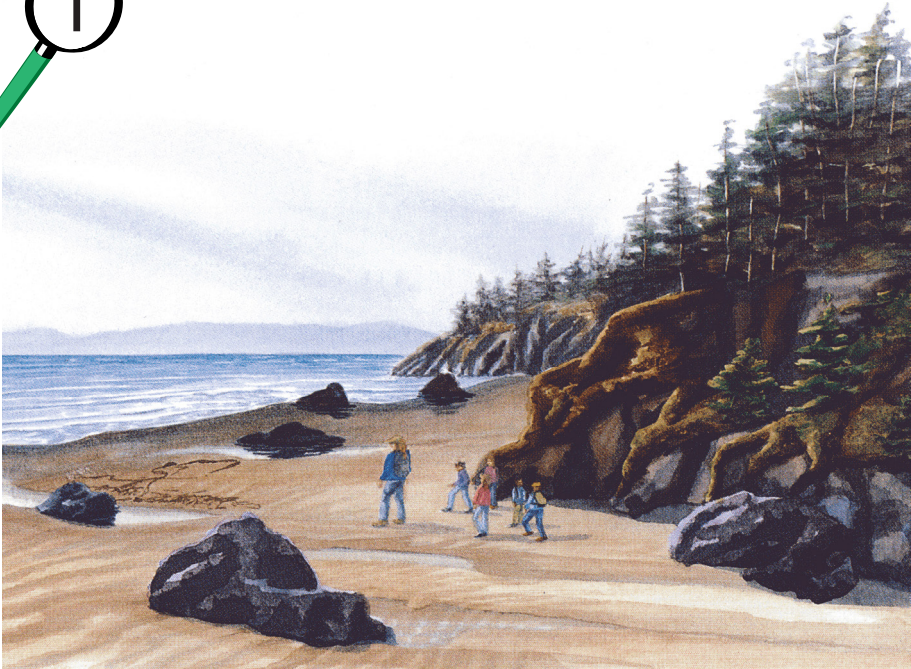
WHAT TO WATCH FOR

1. *What kinds of plants live on the seashore?*
2. *How do plants live and grow on the seashore?*
3. *What kinds of animals live on the seashore?*
4. *How do animals live and find food on the seashore?*
5. *What are non-living parts of a seashore?*

THINGS TO CHECK LATER

1. *What seashore books does the library have?*
2. *Who can tell us about the seashore?*

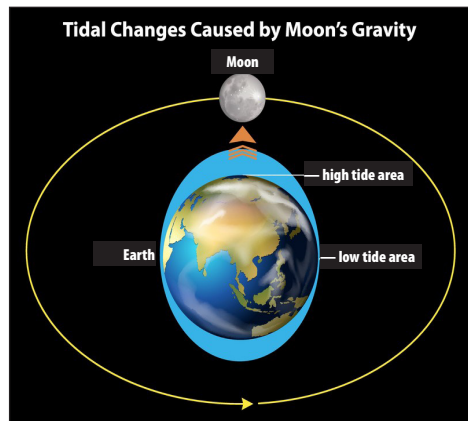




It was 9:30 A.M. when Mr. MacMath and the class from Central School reached the seashore. There, they met a **naturalist** named Marnie. Helping people discover nature was her job.

“I’m glad you came early,” she said. “**Low tide** is at 9:45 today. You will be able to see much of the seashore.”

Marnie explained that the level of the sea rises and falls in tides. After it rises—at **high tide**—much of the **shore** is underwater. After it falls—at low tide—much of the shore is exposed.





To their left, the students could see a flat, muddy shore. It lay between a calm sea and a grassy bank where a few trees grew. A river flowed into the sea, bringing more mud to the shore.

Ahead, stretched a steeper, rocky shore. It led to a wide point where winds and waves struck hard. All along the shore, the rocks glistened, still wet from the falling tide.