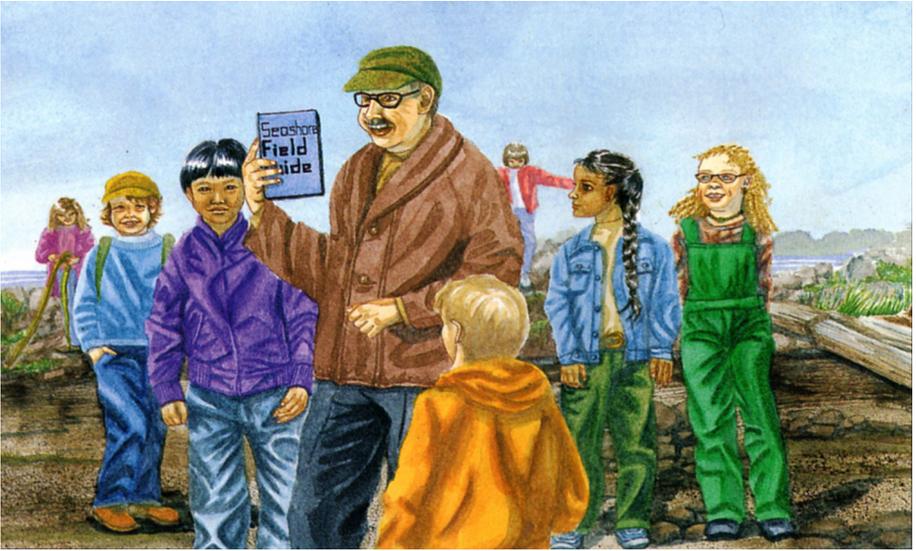


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# Introductions



*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

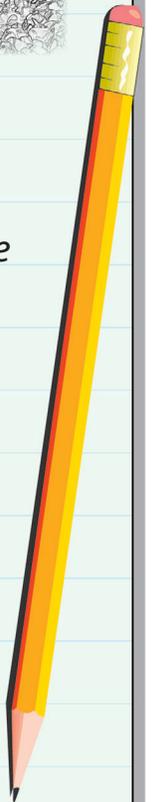


### **WHAT TO WATCH FOR**

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?*

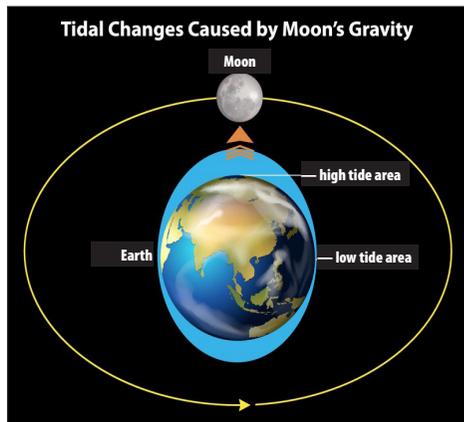




It was 9:30 A.M. when Mr. MacMath and the class from Central School reached the seashore. There, they met a **naturalist** named Marnie. Helping people discover nature was her job.

"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.