Tide Pool Creature Identification Key

Use this photo guide to assist you in discovery! The photos on the left are of critters in the tide pool. The photos on the right show what their remains look like when found in sand at the beach.





Sea Urchins

Look for pieces of cylindrical purple spears—these are sea urchin spines.





Crabs

Look for fragments of orange or colored shells that look like they come from a crab.





Assorted Shells

Look for tiny shells or fragments of shells. Shells come in many shapes.





Barnacles

Many barnacle pieces look similar to other shells, but they are not solid. Barnacles have shells made with hollow pores.





Sand Mason Worm

The protective tube that a sand mason worm makes looks like a tube made from sand.





Tube Snails and Worms

Snail tubes and worm tubes look very similar (hard white tubes). Snail tubes are shiny on the inside and worm tubes are dull on the inside.