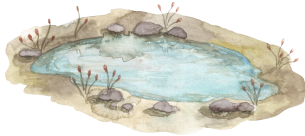


ECOSYSTEM SAND

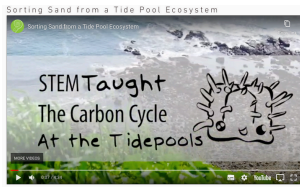
DISCOVER ORGANISMS FROM CALIFORNIA TIDE POOLS

INTRODUCTION

5 min



MOVIE TIME 5 min



STEM TIME

30-60 min

Materials:

- Toby tweezers
- Petri dish
- Meeka microscope
- Tide pool sand
- Lab sheets



EXTENSION ACTIVITY

"In every grain of sand, there is a story of Earth."

– Unknown

Say: If you look inside a tide pool, you will see some fascinating creatures: shells, barnacles, worms, crabs, and more! Today you get to look at your own mini tide pool and identify all the amazing organisms inside. Tide pools have their own special world. Get students excited about getting to see the microscopic world of tide pool sand.

Let's watch a class movie to explore the world of tide pools and see what the ecosystem is like.

Link to the video: https://youtu.be/puP_m_cLDu8

Today students will get to explore tide pool sand and use their observations and an identification guide to see what creatures once lived there

1. Students fill their Petri dish halfway with the tide pool sand sample and carry it back to their desk. Say: *Take your time to see what critters you can identify. The sand sample you have today is full of many different things. Draw what you see and you can share with a classmate.* The goal is not necessarily to identify and label each thing, but to have fun wondering and exploring this little tide pool world.
2. Students love discovering the shells and other bits in the sand. They can use tweezers to sort and carefully move things around. You can remind them to draw the best things they find on the lab sheet. Circulate and compliment their discoveries as they dive deep into tide pool ecosystems.

Read about the snails trying to get away from the sea stars in Brittany Jellison's research.