

# Beaches and rock pools

Imagine if your home kept changing all day long, from bone dry to soaking wet and then back again. That's life for the creatures of the seashore as the tide flows in and out. Shoreline residents all have clever ways of adapting to their changing environment.

## ▼ Seaweed

There are thousands of different types of seaweed. Some grow like forests out of the seabed, and others are tiny and drift along in the water. Seaweed is an important food for all kinds of ocean animals.



## ▼ Hermit crab

This crab can't grow a shell of its own, so it borrows one left behind by a sea snail or other shore creature. As hermits grow, they have to leave their home to find a new, bigger shell.

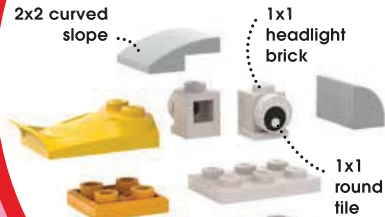
*PINCERS ARE HANDY IF YOU HAVE TO FIGHT OVER A NEW HOME!*



### Build it!

#### Crab core

The crab's legs and pincers clip onto an octagonal ring element in the center of its body. The head and shell sit on top.



#### Beady eye

Each of the gull's eyes is a printed 1x1 round tile mounted on a headlight brick. Gray, curved bricks above and behind the eyes form the bird's rounded head.

### Build it!

## Herring gull ►

Gulls are the recyclers of the shore, swooping down on animals that have died or are stranded in rock pools. Watch out—sometimes they'll even steal your seaside snacks!

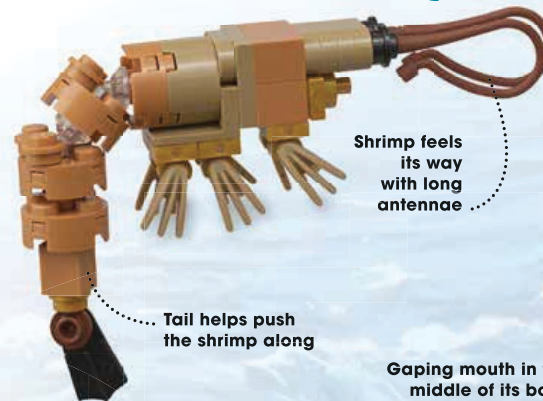
Webbed feet for swimming



## Shrimp ▼

These small cousins of the lobster have soft shells. They paddle through the water with their tiny back legs, called swimmerets.

*I MAY BE SMALL, BUT I'M A SPEEDY SWIMMER!*

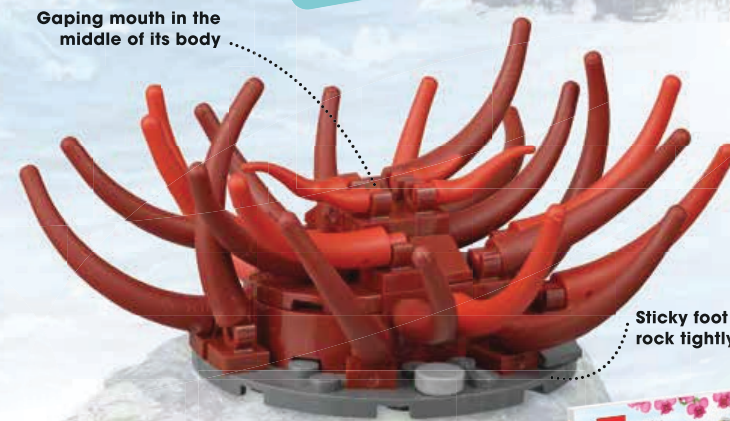


## Habitat facts

The four main types of beach are **muddy**, **sandy**, **shingle** (small stones), and **rocky**. Animals and plants have to adapt to each type—from mussels that cling tightly to rocks, to crabs that can bury themselves in sand to hide from hungry gulls.

## Sea anemone ►

Although it looks like a flower, the anemone is an animal that's part of the jellyfish family. Its long, stinging tentacles reach out to grab passing food, then transfer it into its mouth.



# Tree of life

Almost two million animal species belong to the same huge family—the animal kingdom. Animals come in so many shapes and sizes because over millions of years they have adapted, or changed, to survive better in different environments.

**Reptiles**  
Reptiles have tough, scaly skin. They need to sit out in the sun to keep their bodies warm.

**Birds**  
There are about 10,000 types of birds, and all of them have feathers. They have wings, too, but not all birds can fly.

**Fish**  
Fish have special features for life underwater. Most have waterproof scales, and fins that help them swim.

**Mammals**  
From cats to camels, and hippos to humans—the mammal family is huge! Most have fur or hair, and mammal mothers make milk to feed their babies.

**Amphibians**  
Amphibians have a super skill—most can live in water or on land. They have smooth, slimy skin and lay jellylike eggs underwater.

**Invertebrates**  
This group of animals without a backbone is huge! More than 95% of all animals are invertebrates, and there are a million different kinds.

