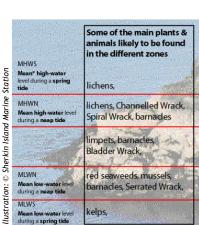
## Aquatic Life

# Up & Down the Shore



Splash Zone
Wet only by salty
sea spray or by an
extremely high

Upper Shore pends quite a lot of time out of water.

Middle Shore ncovered by water for half the day

Lower Shore Covered by water for most of the day. Between the high tide and low tide mark.

shore.

Intertidal Zone

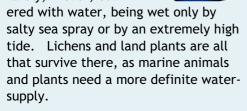
Subtidal Zone
Uncovered by water
only during an
extremely low tide

\*mean = average

Il shores are affected by the rise and fall of the tide. As the tide moves up and down each day, different areas are covered by water for different lengths of time. Each shore can be divided into three main areas, called zones - the splash zone, the intertidal zone and the subtidal zone.

#### The Splash Zone

The splash zone is the area above the high tide mark. It is rarely, if ever, cov-



#### The Subtidal Zone

The subtidal zone is the area below low tide; it is continuously covered by water, except during extremely low tides. The animals and plants that cannot survive out of water for

any period of time, except for very short spells, make their homes



#### The Intertidal Zone

The intertidal zone, which is the area of most interest to the seashorer, is between the low tide mark and the high tide mark and this can be divided into the upper, middle and lower

The upper shore spends quite a lot of time out of the water. It is covered by the tide for such a short period each day that conditions are, for much of the time, like those on dry land.

The middle shore is covered by water for longer than the upper shore and so conditions are not as dry.

The *lower shore* spends most of the day covered by water, rarely drying out or exposing the animals and plants.

The conditions in these areas influence the types of animals and plants found there. Each has learned to adapt to living in a particular area.



### Patterns on the Shore

On some shores, animals and plants form a visible pattern of bands at different levels. For example, at the top of a rocky

shore, on the splash zone, there may be a band of coloured lichens. Lower down, there may be bands of different brown seaweeds or a band of barnacles. Each band provides the best conditions for the survival of a particular plant or animal; such survivors are often the main species to be found there. This pattern of bands is called **zonation**.

Banding, or zonation, is not always very obvious. On steeper rocky shores the bands are quite narrow, while on more gently-sloping ones, the bands are much wider. While zonation also applies to sandy, muddy and shingle shores, it is not easy to see, as most animals live underneath the surface.

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