

Haystack Rock Awareness Program

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE TO FIELD TRIPS

Grades 3-5



2024



163 E. Gower Street | PO Box 368 | Cannon Beach, OR 97110

Dear Group Leader,

Thank you for your interest in bringing your students to Haystack Rock. The Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP) looks forward to supporting your visit! If this is your first field trip with HRAP, please review this Educator Guide carefully and let us know of any questions you may have.

Please pay **SPECIAL** attention to three items in this guide:

*** Scheduling** -- We appreciate you scheduling your visit in advance, rather than showing up unannounced. This helps us ensure that the greatest number of school groups and students can visit Haystack Rock, while minimizing our collective impact on the fragile intertidal ecosystem.

*** Safety** -- Please review our safety suggestions with both students and chaperones, before your field trip. Safety is our number one priority at Haystack Rock, and our goal is to keep people safe while also keeping Haystack Rock wildlife safe.

*** Stewardship**— Haystack Rock belongs to all of us, and we share the responsibility to keep it healthy and flourishing for future generations to enjoy. Research has shown that when students and chaperones learn good tidepool etiquette before visiting Haystack Rock, they do less unintentional damage and gain more knowledge during their visit.

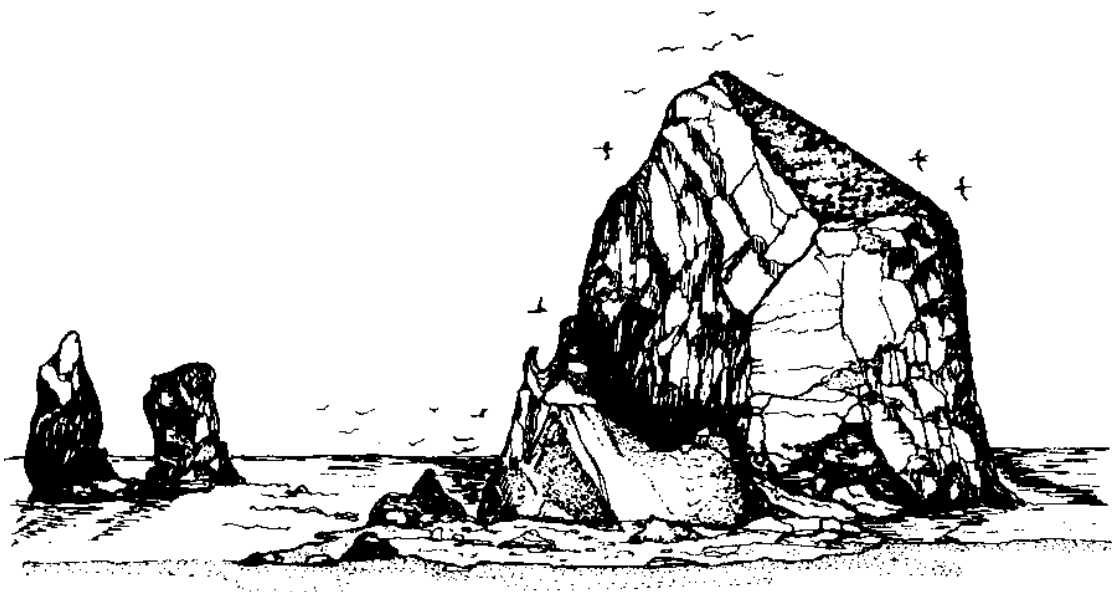
Thank you and see you at the Rock

Sincerely,

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Haystack Rock Awareness Program

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Preparing & Planning Your Field Trip

About the Haystack Rock Awareness Program

The Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP) is an environmental education program of the City of Cannon Beach. HRAP's mission is to protect, through education, the intertidal and bird ecology of the Marine Garden and Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge at Haystack Rock. The program provides trained staff and volunteer interpreters during the spring and summer months to educate visitors about the rocky intertidal and nesting seabird areas. In addition, HRAP coordinates field trips with visiting groups during this time. Groups are scheduled to spread out the impact and crowding of this intensely visited area. This provides a more enjoyable experience for students and helps prevent damage to the fragile Marine Garden ecosystem.

Field Trip Program

In order to accommodate as many groups as possible during low tide and minimize environmental impact, we arrange field trip activities for either 60 minutes (groups of 50 or less students) or 75 minutes (groups of over 50 students). We also limit field trips to less than 100 students (if you have several classes/groups please schedule separate field trip slots if they exceed 100 in total). HRAP's field trip program includes three educational stations for groups of 50 or less students, or 4 stations for 50 or more students. These 15-minute stations include:

- Intertidal Exploration Stations: We typically have one intertidal station on the north side and one intertidal station on the south side of Haystack Rock. Each station will focus on different aspects of the intertidal habitat. At times, only a single intertidal station will be available due to tide, weather, or ephemeral deep-water channels that may prevent access to some areas.
- Bird Observation Stations: A bird viewing station will be set up on the north or south side of Haystack Rock to view nesting seabirds. We may set up two bird viewing stations to provide views of different species and habitats (e.g., tufted puffins on the north side and black oystercatchers on the south side).
- Aquaria Investigation Station: HRAP has a collection permit which allows our program to set up temporary aquaria tanks at the Marine Garden. We will set up aquaria and provide microscopes (or stereoscopes) to offer students a closer look of intertidal animals. It is crucial to return the animals to their intertidal habitats before the tide comes in, prioritizing both animal and interpreter safety. An important note to consider is that aquaria display will only be included on days with favorable tides and weather, as access to tidepools is essential for collecting and returning tidepool organisms.

Scheduling a Field Trip to Haystack Rock

All field trips should be scheduled with the HRAP's Volunteer and Education Coordinator. The coordinator will schedule groups in the order in which request are received. We highly recommend scheduling your trip at least two months in advance and to also have alternative dates in case your first choice is already fully booked.

Choosing a Day: Before choosing a date, it is important that you consult a tide table. On the Oregon Coast there are two low tides and two high tides of varying height each day. Tides of 0.0 feet and lower are better for tidepool viewing at Haystack Rock. Understand that tide tables reflect an educated guess and weather can affect the accuracy of the tidal prediction. You can find a tide table on our website at: <https://www.haystackrockawareness.com/schedule>

Try to choose dates that allow you to arrive close to low tide. A field trip an hour before low tide is ideal, especially for younger children, as this will give your students time to explore while the water is still receding. Remember, weather conditions like big surf and strong winds can GREATLY affect both the level of the tide and the speed in which it comes in.

The walk to Haystack Rock typically takes 12 to 15 minutes. It is recommended to arrive at the parking lot at least half an hour before the scheduled start time of your field trip. This will provide ample time for organization, a restroom break, and the journey to the Rock.

Scheduling: To arrange a field trip, complete the electronic form available on our website at <https://www.haystackrockawareness.com/field-trips>. Following submission, the Volunteer and Education Coordinator will contact you in the order in which inquiries are received.

Program Fee: The City of Cannon Beach provides Haystack Rock Awareness Program services at **NO** charge, but a donation of \$1-\$2 per student is encouraged to support the continuation and improvement of our program. This is a work in progress and your input is greatly appreciated.

How To Prepare for a Field Trip

In the Classroom: We highly recommend that you use this guide to help prepare your students for their field trip at Haystack Rock.

“Before the students arrive at the seashore, they need to have as much information about the day as possible. Sensory awareness activities in the classroom, such as drawing a rock or pine cone, help students focus their attention on the sensory aspects of a living organism or a tidal pool during their field trip experience...The more the students know about the place they’re going to and the kinds of activities they will be doing, the less wild excitement you’ll have to deal with. The better prepared they are, the easier it will be to connect their experience with the concepts and attitudes you’re trying to develop” (Snively, Beach Exploration).

The station sections in this guide can be used to help show the students what they will be doing the day of their field trip. In those sections there are also lessons to help prepare the students for their on-beach objectives. Any additional lessons about these topics will only enhance your students’ experience. For questions or suggestions about curriculum ideas please contact the Volunteer and Education Coordinator.

What to bring: Having the right equipment and clothing is essential to a successful field trip. It is important to convey to both students and chaperones the recommendation to wear water-resistant shoes and layered clothing that can easily adjust to varying weather conditions. Rain and wind are common year-round on the Oregon Coast, regardless of what the weather report may state or how the weather is when you get off the bus. Please encourage your students and chaperones to have the following list of items:

- * Rain coat and pants or clothes that are fast drying
- * Rubber boots or shoes that can get wet
- * 3-4 top layers on windy/cold days
- * Change of clothes
- * Lunch or snacks
- * Water
- * Sun block
- * Sunglasses or hat
- * Identification guides (optional)
- * A camera (optional)
- * Lots of questions

What NOT to bring: Please help us keep our impacts to a minimum at Haystack Rock by not bringing the following items:

- * Collecting equipment: including buckets, nets, aquaria, plastic bags, etc.
- * Sticks
- * Shovels
- * Kites

Chaperones: Adult supervision is important for safety and ensures a high-quality experience for your students. Recommended adult: student ratios are 1:4 for ages 8 and under; 1:6 for ages 9 to 12; and 1:8 for ages 13 to 18. This makes it easier for students to focus on the planned activity and questions can be more easily responded to. Please ask each of your chaperones to read and sign the *Chaperone Expectations* form enclosed. We suggest collecting these forms before exiting the bus in Cannon Beach. This form emphasizes HRAP's expectations while visiting the Marine Garden at Haystack Rock. It also allows HRAP staff and volunteer interpreters to focus on education, and reduces unintentionally harmful behavior in this protected ecosystem.

Getting Your Students to the Rock

There are three options available for parking. As previously stated, we recommend arriving at your chosen parking lot at least thirty minutes before the scheduled start time.

- **Haystack Rock Public Parking:** The nearest public parking lot is situated at the junction of Hemlock and Gower Street, right beside City Hall on 163 E. Gower St. There are three oversize parking spots available. To reach the rock, proceed westward along Gower Street

from the parking lot to reach the beach access point. Once you arrive at the beach, look south -Haystack Rock will immediately come into view. The journey to the rock takes 12 to 15 minutes on foot. Our Education and Volunteer Coordinator, will greet your group on the beach upon arrival. Before heading down, considering a restroom break might be wise – since there are no restroom facilities available on the beach. The closest public restroom is situated just across the street from the parking lot, on Hemlock Street. You can find it next to the American Legion at 1216 S Hemlock St.

- **Tolovana Beach State Recreation Site:** In the event that the Haystack Rock Public Parking area is without available spots for oversized vehicles, we recommend utilizing the parking facilities at Tolovana Beach State Recreation Site. From there, you can access the rock by following the access road down to the beach and then heading north. The rock is approximately a 25-minute walk from this spot. Our Education and Volunteer Coordinator, will greet your group on the beach upon arrival. Before heading down, considering a restroom break might be wise – since there are no restroom facilities available on the beach. Restrooms are available at the Recreation Site.
- **Drop-Off Site:** If no parking is available, you can drop off students at 1190 Pacific Drive. To reach the rock, proceed toward the beach access point. Once you arrive at the beach, head south. The journey to the rock takes 12 to 15 minutes on foot. Our Education and Volunteer Coordinator, will greet your group on the beach upon arrival

Please have your students separated into groups (3-4 depending on how many stations). HRAP will offer a quick introduction to welcome the students as well as to remind them of important tide pool etiquette. HRAP will also collect the Chaperone Expectations forms from you at this time



Chaperone Expectations

As a chaperone on a field trip to Haystack Rock you play a vital role in helping students to learn about and preserve the fragile ecosystem at Haystack Rock. Haystack Rock is one of only seven state protected Marine Gardens along the Oregon Coast, and is part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The Marine Garden encompasses a 300-yard radius around the Rock and is intended for wildlife habitat preservation, education, and exploration. The NWR at Haystack Rock begins at the high tide line (marked by the barnacle line) and is closed to public entry year-round because of the sensitive nature of nesting shorebirds and seabirds. The Haystack Rock Awareness Program needs your help to make the field trip as safe as possible for both students and wildlife, and you can do this by agreeing to the following:

1. As a chaperone and visitor to Haystack Rock, I will abide by the regulations set forth by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. These regulations include:
 - **No Climbing above the high tide line (or barnacle line):** This is to protect the marine birds nesting on the offshore rocks, protect the rocks from erosion and for your safety. The marine birds are an intricate part of the coastal ecology and are protected by federal law.
 - **No Collecting:** A special permit is required to legally collect intertidal organisms in this area. Please take only pictures and memories.
2. I will follow rules set forth by the Haystack Rock Awareness Program and encourage students in my group to do the same. These rules include the following and are set in place to ensure the safety of both humans and intertidal plants and animals:
 - **Walk on sand or bare rocks:** This is to avoid crushing live animals. Wet shoes will dry, but dead animals are dead. Do not “rock hop”, especially on larger rocks. Remember, even the barnacles are alive, fragile and important to the health of the Marine Garden.
 - **Explore Gently:** poking, prodding and pulling things off rocks is a way to damage tidepool creatures and their homes. Observing animals in their natural habitat is the best way to learn about their lifestyle. Animals that are moved away from their zone/home often die. Touch plants and animals as carefully as you would touch your own eye.
 - **Keep an eye on the ocean/Do not go behind temporary closure signs:** Large wave surges or “sneaker waves” can sweep you off your feet, rip currents can whisk you out to sea, and cold ocean waves can cause hypothermia in just 20 minutes. Never turn your back on the ocean! And, when exploring around rocks, please avoid walking behind any temporary closure signs that HRAP sets up.

By signing below, I agree to follow these guidelines to help ensure student safety and preservation of this fragile area so that it remains a wonderful place to visit!

X

Note to Teachers

Please share the information in this section with your students as part of your educational preparation. Feel free to copy and paste this information to make your own handouts or simply print out these pages. HRAP would like all visitors to respect this ecosystem and to be safe while exploring.

Stewardship

Stewardship is the responsibility for environmental quality shared by all those whose actions affect the environment. By being stewards of our environment, we can preserve places like Haystack Rock for future enjoyment and for future generations.

How to be a Steward at Haystack Rock:

Intertidal areas are fragile ecosystems. Activities such as trampling, turning over rocks, and removing animals from their habitat can greatly damage the tidepool life. Yet we can all enjoy tidepool areas and ensure their survival by following a few simple rules.

1. **Tread Lightly – Always stay on sand or small bare rock.** It can be tricky to navigate tide pool areas without stepping on live animals. Please follow these tips to help minimize human impact while exploring in the Marine Garden:
 - a. Walk slowly and look where you place your feet. Animals in the intertidal areas are often small and camouflaged.
 - b. Look out for barnacles, mussels, anemones, snails and other creatures so you can avoid stepping on them. Teach the students what to watch out for when walking in the area.
 - c. Please follow the instructed routes between stations and please note that we generally ask visitors to walk around the Marine Garden on the sand instead of crossing through it. Please ask HRAP for directions on how to get to stations if you don't know or for the best route.
 - d. Stay out of tidepools. Small puddles are hard to avoid, but walk around large tidepools please.
 - e. Wear shoes or boots that can get wet. This helps prevent rock hopping when the tide starts to move in.

f. Avoid stepping on seaweed and algae. They provide food and hiding places for animals, and can be very slippery, making it easy for you to fall.

2. **Explore Gently:**

a. Use eyes more than hands and leave animals in their homes.

b. Do not poke, pry, or take animals or plants off rocks. These acts are likely to kill or seriously injure animals.

c. Even though it's fun to look, please do not turn over rocks. You can accidentally crush animals and kill them when turning over and replacing rocks. For an alternative activity, if looking for crabs, observe them with your eyes hiding in mussel beds. Ask an interpreter to help you find a "crab condo".

3. **Don't Collect at Haystack Rock– The tidepool area at Haystack Rock is a protected Marine Garden; this means everything in it is protected from collection.**

Animals and plants are alive; dead material like shells are recycled and reused by tidepool animals; and small rocks provide shelter; so take only memories and pictures. Collecting is prohibited by a Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife law.

4. **Don't Climb Haystack Rock.** All offshore rocks, reefs, and islands on the Oregon Coast are part of a National Wildlife Refuge. People can easily disturb marine birds that nest on offshore rocks and marine mammals that haul out on these rocks to rest. Birds will abandon their eggs and nests if people get too close, which leaves eggs and chicks vulnerable to predators and to the weather! Marine mammals can bite or become exhausted trying to move away from curious visitors. So please remember to stay below the barnacle line at all times, as required by U.S. Fish and Wildlife law.

Discussion Activity: Give your class a list of the rules at Haystack Rock and have them come up with reasons why that kind of behavior or activity is detrimental to the health of the ecosystem at Haystack Rock. OR have the students brainstorm additional ways they can be stewards at Haystack Rock.



What is a Marine Garden?

A Marine Garden is a type of Marine Protected Area (MPA) which is defined by the U.S. Government as “any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, State, territorial tribal or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein”. The Rocky Shores Management Strategy within Oregon’s Territorial Sea Plan (TSP) classifies 15 Marine Protected Areas actively managed in Oregon into three categories: Marine Gardens, Habitat Refuges, and Research Reserves. Haystack Rock, Cape Kiwanda, Otter Rock, Yaquina Head, Yachats State Park, Cape Perpetua, and Harris Beach State Park intertidal areas are all classified as Marine Gardens. In Oregon, this means a protected area in which it is illegal to collect any marine invertebrate (except a single mussel for fishing bait). Marine Gardens are areas set aside for educational programs and allow visitors to enjoy and learn about intertidal resources.

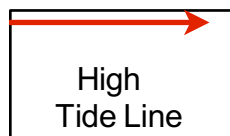
The Haystack Rock Marine Garden includes “all rocky areas, tide pools, and sand beaches situated between extreme high tide and extreme low tide lying within a 300-yard radius of the base of Haystack Rock” (2013 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, ODFW).

What is a National Wildlife Refuge?

National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) are tracts of land or water set aside to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat for future generations. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of over 540 refuges across the United States. The System is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is considered to be a living heritage of our great country.

Haystack Rock is part of the Oregon Islands NWR which includes 1,853 rocks, reefs, islands, and two headlands. Although some NWRs allow public access, the Oregon Islands NWR is closed to public entry year-round, because of the sensitivity of nesting seabirds and other wildlife that utilize the refuge. The refuge at Haystack Rock begins above the high tide line, which is most noticeable by the top of the barnacle line (see photo below).

Above is the NWR



Below is the Marine Garden



Discussion Activity: Have your class brainstorm and list the benefits of designating protected areas like Marine Gardens and National Wildlife Refuges.

Beach Safety Tips

While the rocky shore environment is a fun place to explore, safety precautions are a must! Rocks are slippery, the ocean can be dangerous, and sneaker waves are a common occurrence. In addition, rocky shores are homes for animals and plants not well adapted to our feet and hands. Remember the following guidelines to ensure a safe trip to the tidepools for you and for the animals and plants that live there.

1. **Keep an eye on the ocean** – Large wave surges, or sneaker waves, can knock any person off their feet without warning! Sneaker waves are not predictable, but if you remember to never turn your back on the ocean you will be able to see when large waves are coming and move to a safe area.
2. **Use caution** – Running and jumping in tidepool areas is unsafe for you and for the animals that live there. Rocks that are covered with wet algae and animals are slippery. Some animals and rocks are sharp. The combination of slippery and sharp has resulted in many injuries in tidepool areas, so please walk slowly!
3. **Check local tide tables** – Know when low tide is, so you can watch for rising water when the tide is coming in. The low tide time is only a prediction, weather can affect the accuracy of this information.
4. **Be ready to get wet** – Wearing proper shoes allows you to avoid rock hopping, which is safer for you and the animals and plants that live on rocks. Wear layered clothing for unpredictable weather changes and bring a rain jacket. If you are traveling a long distance a change of clothes is a good idea just in case you get wet.
5. **Please do not play on driftwood** – It only takes four inches of water to move a five-ton log! Staying off of beached logs helps keep you from accidentally getting trapped under a log if waves move it.
6. **Please don't allow children to play in the water without adult supervision.** Undercurrents and rip currents can pull children far away from shore. There are known rip currents by Haystack Rock, so keep an eye on kids to make sure they do not go out too deep or play in unsafe areas (note: life guards are only present on Cannon Beach from June until September).

To watch beach safety commercials or for more information, go to:
www.oregonbeachsafety.org

Bird Observation Station

What is the purpose of the Bird Observation Station?

The purpose of this station is to closely observe birds, their nesting habitats, and behaviors. It will also introduce important concepts about birds, such as migration and adaptation, to the students.

What is the Bird Observation Station?

The HRAP team will set-up several telescopes so the students can view the birds in the Wildlife Refuge (see photos below). Students will also have access to binoculars to use to find birds not displayed in the scopes.

Depending on the day and the number of birds visible, your field trip program may have 1-2 bird observation stations either on the North or South side of Haystack Rock. In addition to viewing birds, the students will participate in another activities (at a table separate from the scopes). The students will gather in a group at the beginning of this station to hear the details of this activity as well as learn some fun facts about the birds of Haystack Rock.









On-Beach Objectives:


- **At the Scopes:** Observe and compare/contrast at least two different birds and their nesting habitats, while discussing their behavior.
- **Non-Scope Activity:** Learn how different birds feed and swim while discussing migration.

Lessons to prepare:

Lesson 1B: Important Bird Species of the Haystack Rock National Wildlife Refuge

Lesson 1B: Important Bird Species of The Haystack Rock National Wildlife Refuge

	Common Name
	Tufted Puffin
	Pigeon Guillemot
	Common Murre
	Pelagic Cormorant

	Common Name
	Western Gull
	Black Oystercatcher
	Bald Eagle

Aquaria Investigation Station

What is the purpose of the Aquaria Investigation Station?

The purpose of this station is to closely observe intertidal animals and algae, identifying both anatomical and behavioral similarities and differences that contribute to their classifications.

What is the Aquaria Investigation Station?

HRAP has a collection permit from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) which allows our program to temporarily collect both fish and invertebrate species to put in display tanks (or aquaria) in front of the Marine Garden (see photos below). This enables students to make closer observations of intertidal organisms.

The set-up and format of this station will vary depending on the tide, number of HRAP staff and volunteers, weather and the number of student participants. On an optimum day (a very low tide and ample staff and volunteers) there will be two tables with 4 to 5 display tanks with many organisms, microscopes, and hand lenses. On a challenging day (high low tide and minimal staff and volunteers) there may only be 1 to 2 tanks with fewer organisms, and hand lenses only. HRAP staff and volunteers will determine the lay-out of this station the day of your field trip after assessing the conditions that day, but will keep in mind what is needed to complete the student's on-beach objectives. HRAP may also utilize an alternate activity in case there is not enough specimens to observe in the aquaria.





On-Beach Objectives:

- Choose at least two animals from the tanks to compare and contrast. This comparison should include a list of the animals' prey, predators, and habitat.

Lessons to prepare:

Lesson 1A: Making Comparative Observations

Lesson 2A: Food Web Basics

Lesson 1A: Making Comparative Observations

Warm-up Discussion: Choose two items from your classroom that the students can compare and contrast as a group. Remind your students that when they observe, they pay close attention to something. When observing you use all five senses: seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting (please be cautious when explaining this concept to younger children. Remind them that sometimes it is not appropriate to use some of these senses. For instance, they will not be touching many of the animals at the aquaria station, however, they can guess or make a hypothesis about how they may feel).

Task: Have the students list the differences and similarities between the two crab species on the following page. This can either be done verbally as a group or written as an individual assignment. To help the students identify key differences between these two crab species ask them questions like the following:

1. How are these animals the same?

- a. Do these animals have any of the same body parts?
- b. Do you think these animals move? How do you think they move?
 - All arthropods, and therefore all crabs, have jointed legs/appendages.
- c. How do you think these crabs see? Can you see anything in the picture?
 - All crabs have complex eyes, located near their feeding appendages.

2. How are these animals different?

- a. Are these crabs the same color? What color are they?
- b. Do you think these animals have soft or hard bodies? Do these crabs have the same shell?
 - All arthropods, and therefore all crabs, have an exoskeleton, but the hermit crab has a soft exoskeleton so it finds an empty snail shell for extra protection.
- c. Do any of their body parts look different?
 - Their claws are probably the most obvious answer to this question. Hermit crabs have reduced front claws, because they eat detritus (non-living organic matter), while the Red Rock Crab has large and very strong front claws, which are used to crack open the shells of barnacles and snails. Hermits crabs also have one larger claw which is pulled into the shell last, and is used like a protective “front door” to ward off predators. Red Rock Crabs on the other hand, have claws that are equal in size.

Student name:

How am I the same as
a hermit crab?
&
How am I different?



ODFW

Red Rock Crab (*Cancer Productus*)

Similarities



© Gary McDonald

Hermit Crab (*Pagurus granosimanus*)

Differences

Lesson 2A: Food Web Basics

Warm-up Discussion: As a group or as individuals have your students define the following terms in their own words. After they have defined these terms, brainstorm different types of characteristics that these organisms may have.

- **Predator:** An animal that consumes other animals as a food source.
- **Prey:** The animal that a predator consumes.
- **Detritus:** Non-living organic matter that was previously plant, algae, or animal life.
- **Primary Producer:** Plants and algae are primary producers, which means they make their own food using basic nutrients and sunlight.
- **Herbivore:** Animal that consumes primary producers.
- **Carnivore:** Animal that consumes other animals.
- **Omnivore:** Animal that consumes both animals and primary producers.

Task: Many of the predators in the invertebrate ecosystem are quite different from other predators. Many do not have teeth, claws, or even eyes! So what do these animals have that enables them to be successful predators? Another important term you may want to introduce is **adaptation** (a body part or characteristic of an animal that allows them to survive in a particular environment). To exemplify the uniqueness of invertebrate predators we will use the Ochre Star (the most commonly seen sea star at Haystack Rock). The Ochre Star (*Pisaster ochraceus*) is a top predator of the intertidal and is an important **keystone species** (a species that is not necessarily abundant in a community but exerts a strong control on community structure because of their pivotal ecological role, or niche). The Ochre Star feeds preferentially on mussels but will also feed on other invertebrates. Experiments have shown that if the Ochre Star is removed from an intertidal area, the mussels take over and eliminate other invertebrates and algae. Therefore, the predation of mussels (and other animals) by the Ochre Star actually increases the biodiversity in an area, making it an ecologically important keystone species. Use the following information and the corresponding pictures on the following pages to discuss the predator/prey relationship between the Ochre Star and the California Mussel.

Photo page 1: Ask: Which is the predator? Which is the prey? Why do you think that?

Photo page 2: Explain how the Sea Star feeds - Sea stars only hunt for prey while underwater. When consuming mussels or clams, a sea star will cover its prey with its body and attach hundreds of tube feet to the two parts of the hinged shell. By doing this the sea star is actually able to open the shell. A sea star's mouth is located beneath its body. To eat its food, it then inserts the lower portion of its stomach into the shell. The stomach secretes digestive enzymes turning the mussel meat into liquid, which is then

taken into the sea stars body where it is further digested and absorbed. Sea stars can also engulf smaller prey, like snails, whole. This flexible mode of feeding helps the sea star feed on a variety of prey. **But how do they find their prey?** Sea stars, unlike many predators, lack image-forming eyes! Instead, sea stars have a network of nerves cells that are dispersed across its entire body. These sensory cells recognize touch and chemical signals. Many sea stars, including the Ochre Star, also have light-sensitive cells called eye spots at the ends of their arms. These cells can tell the difference between light and dark, allowing the sea star to navigate and orient itself through the intertidal. The combination of these two forms of sensing allows the sea star to be a very efficient predator, able to capture even fleeing prey, without actually having a brain or eyes.

Photo page 3: How do mussels protect themselves from sea stars and other predators? The mussel is the perfect prey for predators like the sea star because they are sessile, meaning they do not move. However, the mussel has a few adaptations or characteristics to deter predation. One such adaptation is its hard tightly-closed shell. Many predators, unlike the sea star, cannot open the mussel's hinged shell. Mussels also use strong byssal threads to attach themselves to rocks. These threads keep predators, as well as waves and currents, from ripping the mussels off the rocks. Another adaptation that limits sea star predation in particular is their habitat. Mussels that settle and grow high on rocks are less likely to be eaten by sea stars. Sea stars are more vulnerable to drying out, or desiccation, while the mussel can seal its shell to keep water in.

Which is the predator? Which is the prey?



California Mussels (*Mytilus*



Ochre Star (*Pisaster ochraceus*)

What makes the Ochre Star a good Predator?

Ochre Star eating a mussel



The clear sac in the photo below is the sea star's stomach! You can also see the sea star's tube feet.



The small red dot in the photo to the right is one of this sea star's eye spots.

(photo courtesy of <http://www.seastarsofthepacificnorthwest.info>)



How does the mussel protect itself?

Mussels use **byssal threads** to attach themselves to rocks.



(Photo courtesy of <http://www.marinebio.net>)

Sea stars will only climb so high during the high tide to find food.



These mussels are safer! Sea stars do not want to get caught out of the water for too long. That is why they usually do not feed this high.



Danger zone! These mussels are not safe from sea star predation!

Intertidal Exploration Station

What is the purpose of the Intertidal Exploration Station?

The purpose of this station is to observe intertidal organisms in their natural habitat. These observations will be discussed after exploration to introduce key ecological concepts such as adaptation and zonation.

What is the Intertidal Exploration Station?

This station focuses on free exploration, which will allow students to observe and make conclusions about the intertidal habitat and its inhabitants. HRAP will meet the group at the beginning of this station to quickly brief the students on tidepool etiquette. The students will then be led by the interpreter into the Marine Garden where the students will have time to explore. HRAP interpreters will be present to assist with finding and identifying organisms, and to answer questions. At the end of the station the group will reconvene to discuss the students' observations.





On-Beach Objectives:


- Discuss important adaptations of intertidal organisms while considering what is needed to survive in their environment and how organisms interact with each other.

Lessons to prepare:




Lesson 1I: Common Intertidal Species of the Haystack Rock Marine Garden

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Fish

	Common Name
	Tidepool Sculpin

Crabs

	Common Name
	Hermit Crab
	Purple Shore Crab
	Dungeness Crab



Barnacles

	Common Name
 A close-up photograph of a single acorn barnacle, showing its rounded, white, shell-like structure with a central opening.	Acorn Barnacle
 A photograph showing a dense cluster of goose neck barnacles. They have a characteristic long, thin, neck-like structure extending from a base, with a reddish-brown color.	Goose Neck Barnacle
 A photograph of a thatched barnacle, which has a fan-like, radiating structure with many small, white, pointed spines extending from a central point.	Thatched Barnacle



Bryozoans

	Common Name
 A photograph of a branched-spine bryozoan, showing a complex, branching structure with many small, brown, spine-like projections.	Branched-spine Bryozoan


Sea Stars

	Common Name
	Ochre Sea Star
	Sunflower Sea Star




Sea Anemones

	Common Name
	Giant Green Anemone
 <p data-bbox="375 1843 623 1881">by: Donna Lenius</p>	Aggregating Anemone





Hydroids




	Common Name
 <p data-bbox="370 779 623 814">by: Lisa Habecker</p>	<p data-bbox="857 373 1365 436">Wine-glass Hydroid</p>

Nudibranchs (sea slugs)



	Common Name
	<p data-bbox="976 1016 1263 1079">Sea Lemon</p>
 <p data-bbox="521 1566 610 1598">HRAP</p>	<p data-bbox="967 1310 1271 1440">Opalescent Nudibranch</p>
	<p data-bbox="854 1633 1382 1696">Leopard Nudibranch</p>

Shelled Mollusks

	Common Name
 A photograph showing several dark, frilled dogwinkles on a rocky surface. One shell is open, revealing a white interior.	Frilled Dogwinkle
 A close-up photograph of a black turban snail with a prominent yellowish-orange aperture.	Black Turban Snail
 A photograph showing a dense cluster of California mussels, characterized by their dark, rounded shells.	California Mussel
 A photograph of a mossy chiton, showing its characteristic eight overlapping plates and a mossy, textured surface.	Mossy Chiton

	Common Name
	Leather Chiton
	Ribbed Limpet
	Keyhole Limpet

Sponges





	Common Name
 A photograph showing a bright orange-red, encrusting sponge growing on a dark, rocky substrate. The sponge has a porous, irregular texture.	Red Encrusting Sponge
 A close-up photograph of a purple encrusting sponge. The sponge has a porous, cellular structure with many small, circular openings.	Purple Encrusting Sponge

Algae



Green Algae

	Common Name
 A photograph of sea lettuce, a green alga. It consists of several long, flat, ribbon-like blades that are slightly curved and have a textured surface.	Sea Lettuce

Red Algae

	Common Name
	Nori or Laver
	Black Pine
	Iridescent Seaweed
	Branching Coralline

Brown Algae

	Common Name
 A photograph of Pacific Rockweed, showing its characteristic brown, leafy blades and a central stipe, growing on a rocky shore.	Pacific Rockweed
 A photograph of Winged Kelp, showing its dark brown, winged blades and a central stipe, growing on a rocky shore.	Winged Kelp



Haystack Rock Species Check List

BIRDS

- Tufted Puffin
- Pigeon Guillemot
- Common Murre
- Western Gull
- Pelagic Cormorant
- Brandt's Cormorant
- Black Oystercatcher
- Harlequin Duck
- Surf Scoter
- Black Turnstone
- Peregrine Falcon
- Bald Eagle
- Other _____

- Snail
- Frilled Dogwinkle
- Striped Dogwinkle
- Black Turban
- California Mussel
- Limpet
- Chiton
- Sponge

FISH

- Tidepool Sculpin
- Cling fish
- Gunnel
- Other _____

TIDE POOL CREATURES

- Crab
 - Hermit Crab
 - Purple Shore Crab
 - Lined Shore Crab
 - Dungeness Crab
 - Porcelain Crab
 - Red Rock Crab
 - Kelp Crab
 - Mole Crab
 - Other _____
- Barnacle
 - Acorn Barnacle
 - Thatched Barnacle
 - Goose Neck Barnacle
- Nudibranch (sea slug)
 - Sea Lemon
 - Shaggy Mouse
 - Opalescent
 - Other _____
- Sea Star
 - Ochre Sea Star
 - Sunflower Star
 - Other _____
- Sea Anemone
 - Giant Green Sea Anemone
 - Aggregating Sea Anemone
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ALGAE

- Green
 - Sea Lettuce
 - Other _____
- Brown
 - Bull Kelp
 - Rockweed
 - Acidic Kelp
 - Winged Kelp
 - Ribbed Kelp
 - Kombu or *Laminaria*
 - Other _____
- Red
 - Coralline
 - Iridescent Seaweed
 - Black Pine
 - Sea Fern
 - Wild Nori or Laver
 - Other _____

VASCULAR PLANTS

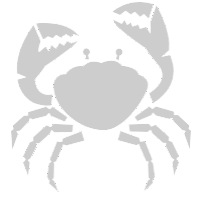
- Surf Grass
- Eel Grass

OTHER

Other _____



Tidepool Safety & Etiquette



When visiting unfamiliar areas, safety precautions are a must!

Ocean beaches and intertidal areas are beautiful, but can be dangerous.

Human impact, such as trampling, overturning rocks and removing animals from the rocks, is greatly damaging to the wildlife and habitat. Please review the following tips with your group before arriving and remember: collecting, harassing wildlife and climbing at Haystack Rock are prohibited under local, state and federal regulations.

1. Check a tide book- Know the times and levels of both the high and low tides on the day of your visit. Understand that tide books reflect an educated guess and weather can affect information accuracy.

2. Arrive at least an hour before low tide- This will give you time to explore while the water is still going "out". Remember, weather conditions like big surf and strong winds can greatly affect both the level of the tide and the speed with which it comes in.

3. Adult supervision is important for safety and to ensure a high-quality experience- Recommended adult: student ratios are 1:4 for ages 8 and under; 1:6 for ages 9 to 12; and 1:8 for ages 13 to 18. This makes it easier for students to focus on planned activities and questions can be responded to more easily.

4. Dress appropriately- Wear shoes that you expect to get wet and layered clothing that adapts to weather changes. Rain and wind are common all year round on the north Oregon coast, regardless of what the weather report may state.

5. Keep an eye on the ocean- Large wave surges or "sneaker waves" can sweep you off your feet, rip currents can whisk you out to sea, and cold ocean waves can cause hypothermia in just 20 minutes. ***Never turn your back on the ocean!*** And, when exploring around rocks, stay away from the surf line.

6. Walk on sand or bare rock to avoid crushing live animals- Wet shoes will dry, but dead animals are dead. **Do not "rock hop", especially on larger rocks. Remember, even the barnacles are alive, fragile and important to Marine Garden health.**

7. Explore gently - poking, prodding and ripping things off rocks is a sure way to damage the area and the critters. Observing animals in their natural habitat is the best way to learn about their lifestyle. Animals that are moved out of their zone often die.

8. Collecting is prohibited. Please take only pictures and memories. (You need a special permit to collect and display intertidal critters.)

9. Climbing is prohibited. This is to protect the marine birds nesting on the offshore rocks, protect the rocks from erosion and for your safety. The marine birds are an intricate part of the coastal ecology and are protected by federal law.

By following the guidelines of tidepool safety and etiquette, you will help ensure your safety and help preserve this fragile area so that it remains a wonderful place to visit!



Haystack Rock is a protected natural area, managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Everything below the average high tide line (i.e.: barnacle line), within a 300- meter radius of the Rock, is a protected Marine Garden set aside for wildlife habitat preservation and public visitation. Everything above the high tide line, including all offshore rocks and islands along the Oregon coast, is part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge set aside for wildlife and closed to public access. To learn more, visit www.haystackrockawareness.com. **Thank you!**

Oregon Science Standards (2009)

Grades 3-5

	Bird Observation Station	Aquaria Investigation Station	Intertidal Investigation Station
Structure and Function			
(5.1L.1) Explain that organisms are composed of parts that function together to form a living system.		X	
Interaction and Change			
(3.2L.1) Compare and contrast the life cycles of plants and animals.	X		
(4.2L.1) Describe the interactions of organisms and the environment where they live.	X	X	X
(5.2L.1) Explain the interdependence of plants, animals, and environment, and how adaptation influences survival.			X
(5.2E.1) Explain how the energy from the sun affects Earth's weather and climate.		X	X