

# Beach Habitat

Habitats are environments that plants and animals live in. Habitats provide animals and plants with three important things: food, water and shelter.



## Types of Coastal Habitats

- beaches
- sand dunes
- rocky shores
- cliffs
- muddy estuaries
- seaside towns and cities

## What You Might Find in a Beach Habitat?

Beaches are important habitats for many animals and plants, including:

**Mammals** – harbour (common) seals, grey seals, harbour porpoise and otters;

**Birds** – oystercatchers, puffins, guillemots, curlews and seagulls;

**Minibeasts** – mussels, shore crabs, hermit crabs, shrimp, prawns, starfish, common whelks, dog whelks and razor shells;

**Plants** – seaweed, sea holly, marram and sea lettuce.



## How Are the Creatures Suited to Live Here?

Oystercatchers have long, strong, flattened, red bills which they use to break open cockles, mussels and other shellfish to eat. Puffins use their wings to help them swim and dive for fish. Harbour seals can hold their breath for up to 10 minutes. Otters have webbed feet which help them swim well and they use their tails to propel, steer themselves and to balance.

## What Could We Do to Help Look after Our Beaches?

We need to keep a safe distance away from animals. We also need to leave the shells at the beach instead of taking them away. We should take our litter home to put in the bin. We should also take photos of plants and flowers instead of picking them.



## Questions

1. What do animals and plants need from their habitat?

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2. Tick two different coastal habitats.

- sand dunes
- rainforest
- muddy estuaries

3. What is a porpoise?

- a plant
- a mammal
- a minibeast

4. Complete the sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_ have long, strong, flattened, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ eat.

5. Which do you think is the most important thing we can do to look after our beaches and why?

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