Draw a food chain / food web to illustrate how the animals and plants in the tide pool are connected. Think about what happens when one species is removed from the picture.

Seaweeds use sunlight and nutrients in the water to grow. These producers provide food, oxygen and shelter for a variety of marine animals.

- Can you find three different colours of seaweed?
- Describe the different shapes of seaweed in the picture.
- Why are some rocks pink?

Snails, chitons and limpets graze on seaweed. They use their tongues to scrape tiny plants off the rocks.

- How many different snails can you find?
- Look for a snail, chiton and limpet – describe how their shells differ.
- Can you find the feeding trails made by these grazers?

As many animals in the rock pool don’t move, feeding on tiny creatures in the water, called plankton, is a good option. They just need to filter the water as it flows past them.

- Can you find the filtering sieves of the half crab?
- Mussels open their shells to feed. How many shells do a mussel have?
- Find the yellow sponge growing on the rock – what does it eat?
- Sea tulips are animals! How does their long stalk help them capture plankton?

Some hunters move quickly to chase or ambush their prey, while others just crawl over their food.

- Find the animal that the whelk has crawled over.
- What is the spiny sea star eating?
- Why is the nudibranch the same colour as the sponge next to it?
- Anemones do not move. What animals do you think they can catch?
- What colour is the octopus? It can change colour - why?
- What food do birds eat in the rock pool?
- What would YOU like to eat?

These rubbish collectors look for food at the bottom of the rock pool.

- Find the sea cucumber feeding on debris on the bottom of the rock pool. Is it an animal or a plant?
- Can you spot the hermit crab? Why is it checking out a snail shell?