

Residents of Red Rock

At Red Rock during low tide, part of the ocean world is exposed for viewing. An abundance of marine animals can be found here. Each living creature faces the challenge of staying moist and away from hungry predators. Some animals seek shelter among the rock weeds while others seek refuge in the tide pools. We can help these important marine animals in a few simple ways: resist taking them home with you; keep the area clean from trash; do not release unwanted aquarium pets. And... be careful as Red Rock is very slippery. We recommend exploring only the lower edges of Red Rock, approaching from the beach at very low tide.



Above: Rock crabs can search for food and hide from hungry seagulls among the rock weeds and in tide pools. Top right: At low tide some mussels attached to Red Rock become exposed to hungry seagulls. The mussel keeps from drying out by closing its shell tightly while keeping some seawater inside. Top left: The dogwhelk is a predatory snail that feeds on barnacles and mussels. Center left: Like the mussel, the barnacle keeps from drying out by closing its shell tightly. Below left: The sea star finds refuge in tide pools while preying on mussels. All photographs except mussels at top right courtesy of Northeastern University Marine Science Center, Nahant

