

algae

A very simple, plant-like living thing that grows in or near water. Seaweed and pond scum are types of algae.

beach

The land next to the sea or a lake. Beaches are covered with sand, shingle or smooth stones called pebbles.

beachcomber

A person who walks along a beach looking for interesting or unusual objects to collect.

beachcombing

To search for objects from a beach such as seashells, pebbles and driftwood.

beachgrass

A plant found at the coast that grows in sand or on sand dunes. It is also called *ammophila* grass.

carnivore

An animal that eats only meat.

cave

A large, underground hole or a hole in the side of a hill, cliff or mountain.

cliff

A high area of rock with one steep, straight side.

coast

The land near the sea.

crustacean

An animal that has a hard, outer shell to protect its soft body parts. Crabs, prawns, shrimps, lobsters and woodlice are all crustaceans.

dune

A hill or mound of sand on the coast or in a desert.

exoskeleton

A hard, outer skeleton that protects soft body parts from being crushed or injured. Crabs, prawns and lobsters have exoskeletons.

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habitat

A place where plants and animals live. Seashores, woodlands and deserts are all habitats.

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harbour

A sheltered place on the coast that is protected and deep enough for ships.

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herbivore

An animal that eats only plants.

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island

A piece of land with water all around it.

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lighthouse

A tall tower near the sea with a bright, flashing light that guides ships in the dark.

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micro-habitat

A very small place where plants, animals and insects live. Logs or piles of stones are micro-habitats.

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mollusc

A soft animal that does not have a skeleton or an exoskeleton. Slugs, snails, clams, mussels, octopi and squid are all molluscs.

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omnivore

An animal that eats both plants and meat.

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predator

An animal that eats other animals. Sharks and squid are predators that live in the sea.

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prey

Animals that are eaten by other animals.

rock pool

A pool filled with seawater on a rocky seashore.

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sand

A material made of tiny pieces of rock. Sand covers deserts and some beaches.

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sea

A large area of saltwater. Seas cover large parts of the Earth.

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seabird

A feathered animal with two legs and two wings found at the coast. Gannets, puffins and oystercatchers are all seabirds.

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seascape

A sketch, drawing or painting of the sea.

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seashore

The land at the very edge of the sea.

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seaside

A place or town next to the sea.

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seaweed

A plant-like algae that grows under the sea.

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shell

A hard covering. Nuts, eggs and some animals have shells.

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shingle

A name for very small, round stones that cover a beach.

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splash zone

The part of the shore above the high tide level onto which seawater often splashes due to waves crashing.

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treasure

An object or item of great value.