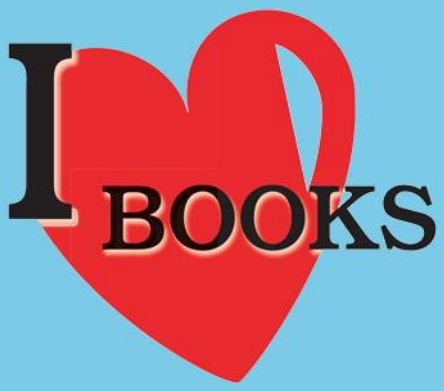


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Opening extract from

The Usborne Outdoor Book

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Illustrated by

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Published by

Usborne Publishing Ltd

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Building a shelter

You can build your own shelter or den using sticks or just a rope and sheet.

Stick shelter

You can make a stick shelter using nothing but the logs and branches around you in the woods. It looks simple, but it's surprisingly stable and is used by wilderness explorers.

You will need:

- ☆ two forked branches
- ☆ one long branch
- ☆ lots of smaller sticks and branches

1. To make the entrance to your den, hold the two forked branches together in a wide triangle shape.



2. Carefully prop one end of the long branch onto the forked branches. Make sure the branches can stand up on their own.



3. Add lots of sticks to both sides, placing them one by one against the long branch, until the sides are covered. You'll need to hunt for sticks of different lengths.



See if you can crawl inside.



If there are lots of extra twigs and leaves on the ground, you could use them to cover the sides of your shelter. Weave thin twigs between the sticks and put leaves on top.



A-frame shelter

Tie a long piece of rope or heavy-duty string between two trees. Then, drape a tarpaulin or sheet over the top.

Use dry leaves to make a floor.

Stones are useful to weigh down the sides.

Always take apart your shelter and clean up your camp before going home.



Arrowhead shelter

Tie one corner of a tarpaulin or a sheet to a tree trunk. Then, secure the opposite corner to the ground. Tuck in the sides to make a floor.

If the tarpaulin doesn't have any holes, wrap a small stone in the corner. Then tie the rope around the stone.

Tie the back corner to a tent peg or a pointed stick pushed into the ground.

Place stones on the inside to weigh down the tarpaulin.



Nature hunt at night

When you're going to sleep, some animals are only just waking up. If you have an adult to go with you, you could go on a nature walk at night to spot nocturnal creatures.

Night walk

Set out at dusk with a light and warm clothes. Stop every so often, turn off your light and wait a few minutes. What can you see and hear?



"Twit-twoo!"

"Hoot!"

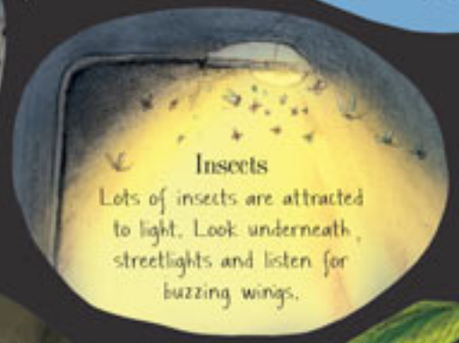
Owls

Owls fly low over grass hunting for food. It's easier to hear than see them.



Bats

Bats fly near water and meadows catching insects. Look for their dark, swooping bodies.



Insects

Lots of insects are attracted to light. Look underneath streetlights and listen for buzzing wings.



"Croak!"

Frogs and toads

Look for frogs and toads near water, in wet grass. Listen for their croaks as well.



Some animals create their own light. In some areas you might see the pinprick lights of fireflies in hedgerows and long grasses.



"Howl!"

"Bark!"

Foxes

Foxes can live almost anywhere, in cities and the countryside. Listen out for their high-pitched calls.



Crickets are very loud at night. They make a chirping sound by rubbing their wings together very quickly.

Night light detective

A bright light is an easy way to find creatures at night.

Trapping moths

Drape an old sheet over a washing line or fence. Shine your light onto it and wait. Moths are attracted to the bright light, and will land on the sheet.

Look at the variety of moths you've trapped. See if you can identify any of them.

Have any other insects landed on your sheet?

Frogs' eyes shine green.

Cats' eyes shine yellow.

Foxes' eyes shine red.

Bright eyes

Animals' eyes reflect light. Shine a light across grass and shrubs. Do any eyes shine back?

Trails of slime

Snails and slugs leave slimy trails that will glimmer in your beam of light. Follow a trail to find the creature that's left it.

Snail trails are dotted.

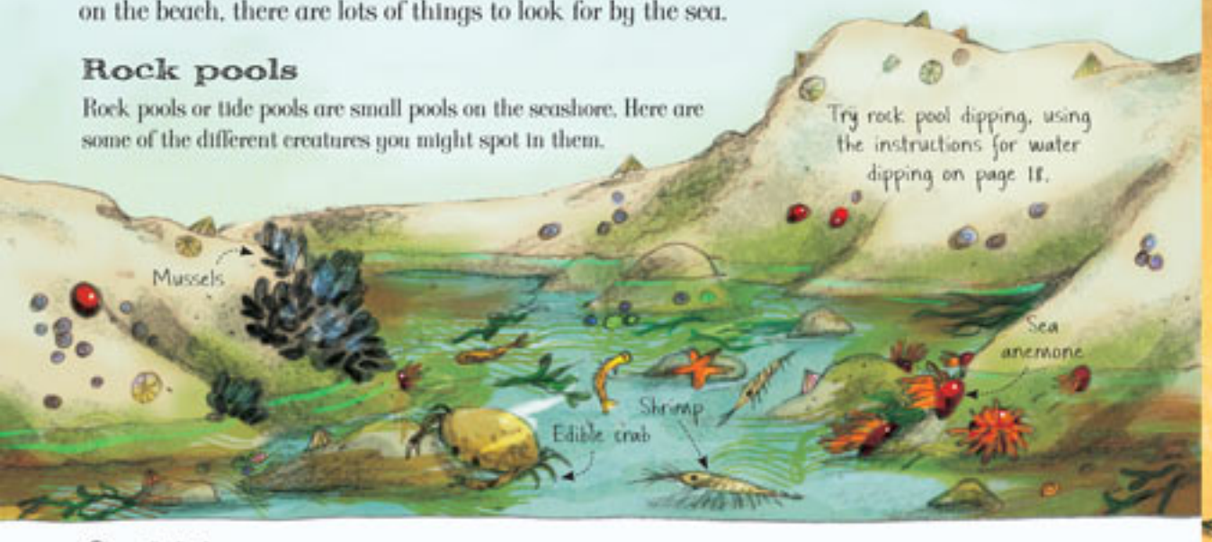
Slug trails are continuous.

On the seashore

Whether it's exploring a pool, catching a crab or hunting for things on the beach, there are lots of things to look for by the sea.

Rock pools

Rock pools or tide pools are small pools on the seashore. Here are some of the different creatures you might spot in them.



Crabbing

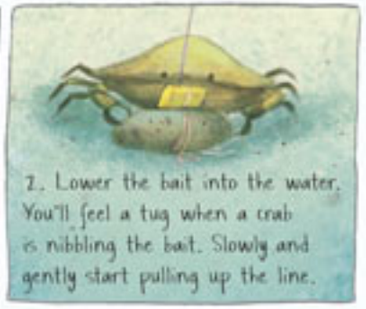
Use bait to catch a crab from a pool so you can take a closer look.

You will need:

- ☆ a piece of string at least as long as your arm
- ☆ a small stone or pebble
- ☆ crab bait – a small piece of bread, cheese, fish or bacon
- ☆ a bucket filled with sea water and placed in the shade



1. Tie some bait and the stone to one end of the string. Loop the other end over your finger.



2. Lower the bait into the water. You'll feel a tug when a crab is nibbling the bait. Slowly and gently start pulling up the line.



3. Place the crab in the bucket to look at it. Then, carefully pour the crab and water back into the pool.

The markings on the underside of a crab let you know if it's male or female.



Seashore hunt

Wait until low tide and take a walk along the shore. Look down to find out what the sea has washed up.

Look for stones with interesting shapes or markings.

Write a list, take a picture, or make a sketch of what you've seen.

Don't take away things you spot on a beach – they might be home to a sea creature.

Seaweed

See how many different types of shells, driftwood or seaweed you can find on your hunt. If you can, try to find out who lived in the shells, too.

Shells of sea snails called common periwinkles

Bone of a sea creature called a cuttlefish

Driftwood is wood washed up by the sea.

An abalone is a large sea snail with a shiny shell.

On the sand

Marks on the sand might mean that a creature has been there, or there's one buried below.

Sand crab tracks

Lugworms are large worms that live on the beach. They leave these shapes as they burrow under the sand.

These are burrows of sandhoppers – creatures that live in the sand during the day, then come out at night to feed.

Footprint of seashore bird