

Intertidal Survivor!

BACKGROUND

A tidepool is a tough place to live. The tide goes out and the pool heats up or even dries up if it's hot outside, fills with fresh rainwater when it's raining, and gets darn cold when it's freezing outside. Not to mention getting bashed by waves when the surf's up. And the predators have easy pickings in a shallow pool. Sometimes even human fingers come poking into soft bodies or pull creatures right off the rocks, which can harm them.

In this activity the class will choose a challenge from a deck of cards.

MATERIALS

- One intertidal organism card for each Explore Team (use Food Web cards)
- A set of Tidepool Survivor Cards (print in color, double-sided and cut to size)
 - Print the Intertidal Survivor cards double-sided onto cardstock so that on one side is the challenge and the other is what they need to do.
- Good acting skills

HOW TO PLAY

1. Let each Explore Team draw one intertidal organism card and one Tidepool Survivor Challenge card then record each in their journals.
2. Ask Teams to decide what structure or behavior might help them to meet the challenge they face in the tidepool
3. Have Explore Teams act out their animal and challenge, charades-style. Have the rest of the class guess:
 - a. what organism they are,
 - b. what their intertidal survival challenge is, and
 - c. what structure or behavior is helping them to meet their survivor challenge
4. After all Teams have gone, hold a vote. Which Explore Team best met their challenge to survive? (This is nicer than the tv show, Survivor, where they vote ill-adapted players off the island!)
6. Hold a brief discussion about the meaning of the game and how every living has behaviors and structures with functions for survival. Some of these are inherited through genes from their parents as adaptations (natural selection/survival of the fittest). Some occur within the lifetime of the individual organism, ie. oysters can grow smaller, thicker shells when, as larvae, they are exposed to chemical cues from an oyster-drill snail that preys on adult oysters!