

Kelp Forest



Kelp forest animals live in a vertical habitat. The kelp holds onto rocks on the seafloor and grows up through the water until it reaches the surface.



For each zone (canopy, mid-kelp and holdfast) sketch an animal you see living there.

What do you see the animals in the water column doing?

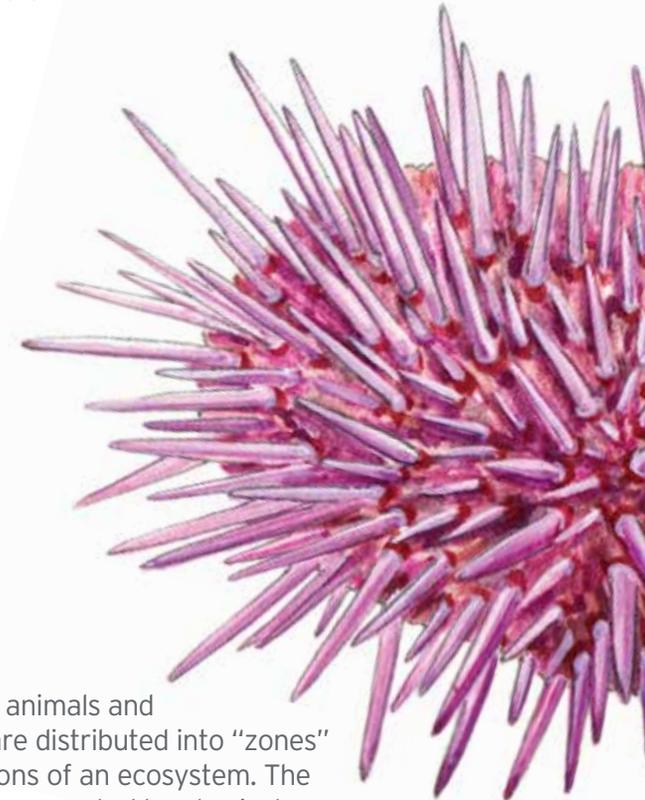
Are the animals living near the holdfast behaving the same way as the animals in the water column? Why or why not?



Monterey Bay
Aquarium®

In the "Zone"

NAME(S):



Marine animals and algae are distributed into "zones" or regions of an ecosystem. The zones are created by physical and biological factors such as tides, availability of food and predators.

Rocky Shore

The rocky intertidal ecosystem is made up of distinct zones. Organisms living there have body parts and behaviors (adaptations) to survive waves, predators and changes in moisture and temperature.



Explore the exhibits in the Rocky Shore. Stand under the crashing wave. Walk outside to the Wave Crash exhibit and find the animals that live in different zones.

Name an animal you see living in the high tide zone (a zone most often exposed to air):

Animal's name:

List one body part or behavior that helps this animal to survive the challenge:

Name an animal you see living in the low tide zone (a zone most often covered by water)

Animal's name:

List one body part or behavior that helps this animal to survive the challenge:

Wharf Pilings

Marine organisms compete for space in their ocean homes. They use all available space, even manmade structures!



Some of the animals that make their homes in the kelp forest or rocky shore may be found on wharf pilings (wooden columns holding up a wharf).

Look closely. Do you see more animals or algae (seaweeds) living on the wharf pilings in the exhibit?

Hint: Is there much sunlight under a wharf?

What is the most abundant animal on the pilings?

Wharf pilings and other manmade structures, like sunken ships and jetties, may provide artificial homes for ocean animals. However, they aren't a natural part of the environment.

In your opinion, should manmade structures be allowed to remain in the ocean? Why or why not?

