



CURRUMBIN ROCKY SHORE STUDY 'DRAWING A LINE TRANSECT'

(For safety reasons this study should be conducted at low tide)

INTRODUCTION

The rocky shore is a common type of environment throughout the world. It has been formed by a number of forces acting on the rock throughout the ages. Some of these include rises and falls in sea level, ice ages, wind and sand erosion. In recent times cyclones and wave action have played their part in splitting the rock and creating cracks and pools. The result has been diversity in rock shape which has created mini habitats called MICROHABITATS, in which animals and plants can live.

The most significant factor of this environment is the activity of the sea; in particular, (a) the rising and falling of the tide and (b) the pounding action of the waves. The animals that live in this environment have a range of clever adaptations for dealing with the constantly changing conditions.

Because the conditions are very different depending on the distance from high tide mark the rocky shore is often broken up into zones. There is a set of organisms that have adapted in a particular way to each zone and they are almost exclusive, although some organisms are versatile enough to overlap from one zone into the next.

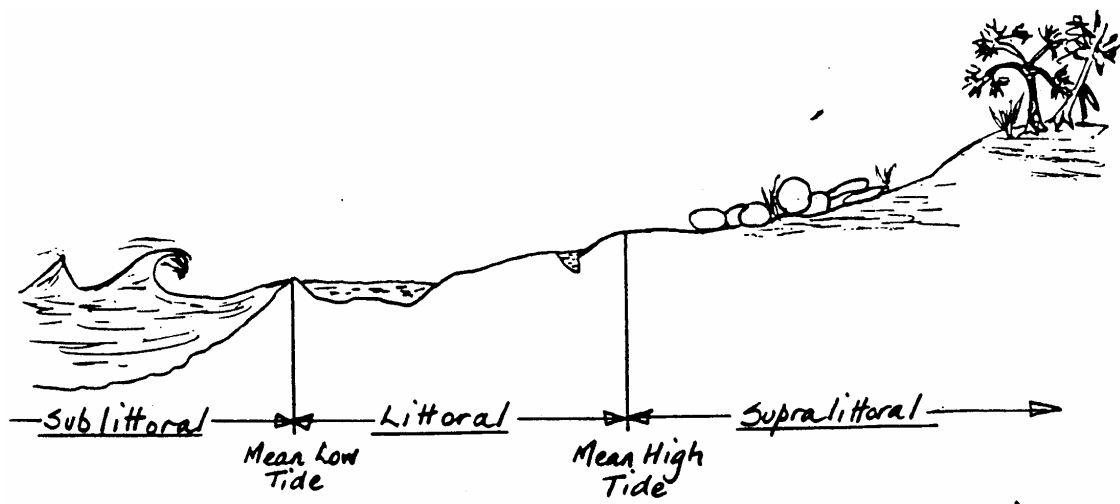


The rocky shore will fall roughly into the following zones:

Above High tide mark i) Supralittoral Zone

↓ ii) Littoral Zone

Below Low tide mark iii) Sublittoral Zone



AIMS

- Identify and give the common names of much of the animal and plant life found on the rocky shore
- To gain a better understanding of the different zones present on a rocky shore
- List the adaptations of these animals and plants to their rocky shore environment

EQUIPMENT

- Sunscreen and Hat
- Mosquito repellent
- Water Bottle
- Clipboard folder
- Notepad, pen and pencil
- Ruler and eraser
- Graph paper for transect
- 2 x 10 metre rope (marked at 1m intervals)
- Magnifying lens
- Books to help identify rocky shore species

PROCEDURE

- Make a line transect along the seashore at right angles to the water.
- Lay your 10 metre rope from the low tide mark and work back towards the shore.
- If 10 metres does not reach high tide mark then you may need to lay down the extra rope.
- Mark out the basic transect line on paper and then start adding the following features:
 - Slope
 - Shape of rock
 - Water levels in pools
 - Approximate zonation borders
 - Dominant organisms present in each section



➤ Complete the rough copy of your transect in the space below.

Rock

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Sand

