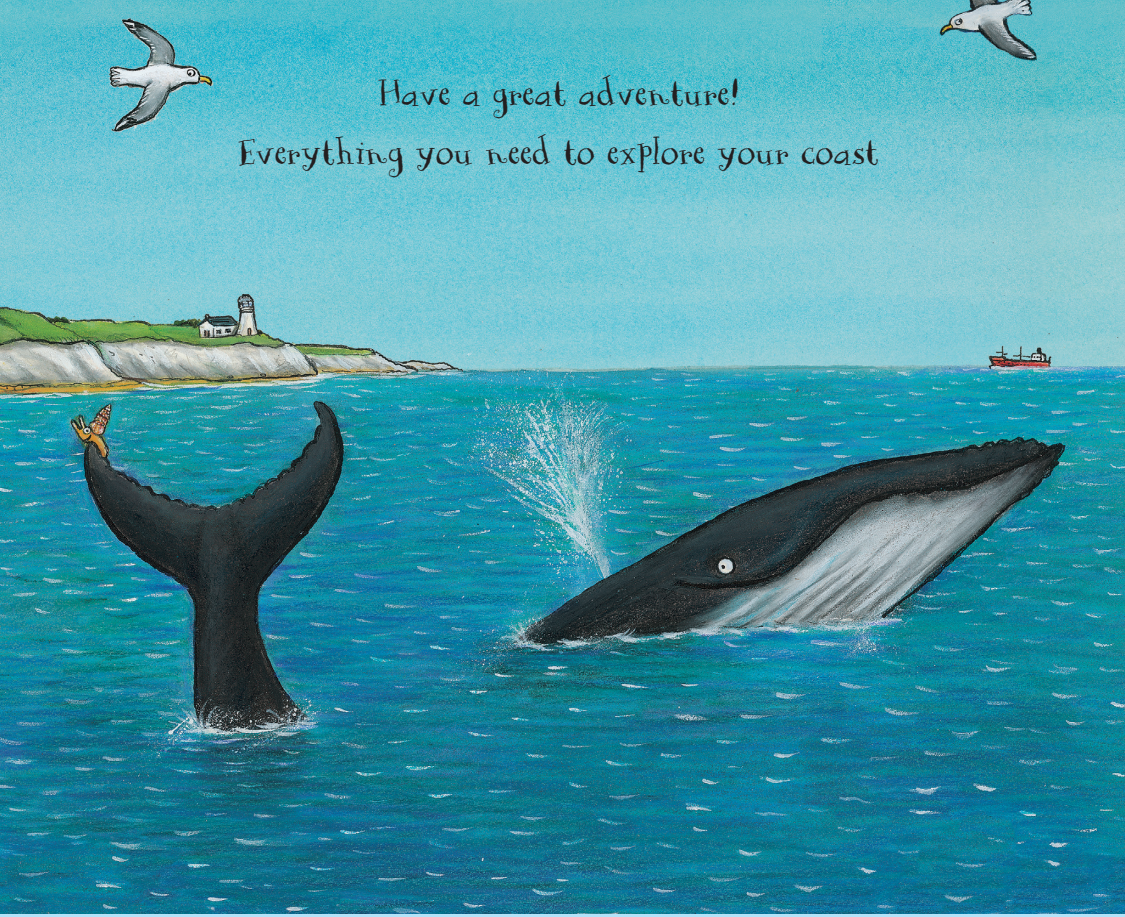
A day out at your coast with

The Snail and the Whale

by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

Have a great adventure!

Everything you need to explore your coast



Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation in partnership with Macmillan Children's Books

How to Make the Most of Your Day Out

There are loads of fun things to do at the coast with your family and friends. We've picked out six ideas to get you started, but there are lots more activities you could do, depending on what the coast is like near you.

You could

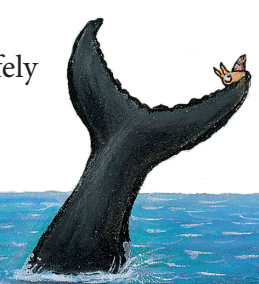
1. Build a sandcastle
2. Go for a walk on the coast path and have a picnic
3. Explore rock pools and see what creatures you can find
4. Have a paddle or swim where it's safe
5. Fly a kite
6. Walk along the shore and see what birds, animals and plants you can see

Before you set off on your coastal adventure:

- Check the weather and dress appropriately – if it's sunny, don't forget a hat and sun cream!
- Look at this safety guide: https://coastguardsafety.campaign.gov.uk
- Remember the Countryside Code: leave gates and property as you find them, follow paths and don't leave any litter

Staying safe on the coast

- Do not enter areas where there could be mud or where the water is dangerous and do not climb or go near cliff edges
- At the beach, be aware of coastguards and flag warnings – remember the sea is very powerful
- When exploring rock pools, check high tide times and make sure you can always get back to shore safely
- Arrange a meet-up place in case you get separated from your family or friends



Who Lives Here?

Match up the animals to their coastal homes

1. Hermit crab

2. Fulmar (Seabird)

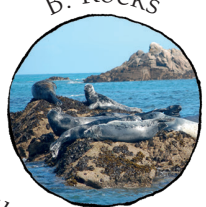
3. Otter

4. Seahorse

5. Seal

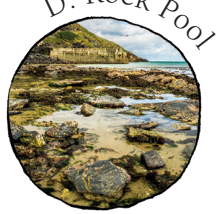
A. Seagrass

B. Rocks

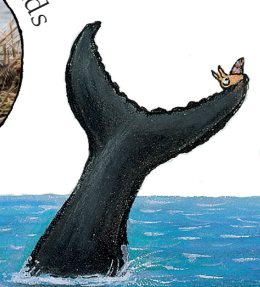


C. Nest in Cliffs

D. Rock Pool



E. Den near Wetlands



ANSWERS: 1-D; 2-C; 3-E; 4-A; 5-B

Things You Might See on the Coast

Sanderling (seabird)

Small, energetic wading bird with black legs

Sea pink thrift flowers

Pink flowers that grow in dry and salty areas like the coast

Beach huts

Small wooden huts on beaches (often brightly coloured)

Kite flyers

Look out for these on a windy day

Lighthouse

Tall building on the coast that uses light to show boats the way to land

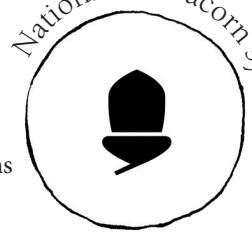
Coastal sand dunes

Hills formed when the wind blows sand into grass and rocks

Pier

Long structure that has been built all the way out to sea

National Trail acorn symbol



This symbol marks National Trails, which are long distance paths

The Snail and the Whale Wordsearch

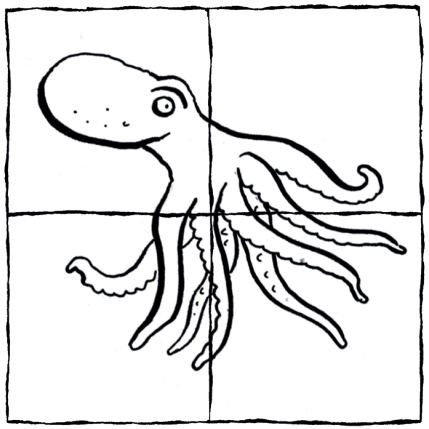
B	S	N	A	I	L	D	U	X	T
L	N	P	E	N	G	U	I	N	E
A	J	T	X	D	E	M	O	P	A
C	U	O	W	H	A	L	E	O	C
K	F	I	R	E	M	A	N	L	H
B	K	V	O	L	C	A	N	O	E
O	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	R
A	Z	O	W	A	V	E	S	H	N
R	V	B	C	N	P	L	Y	O	T
D	Y	M	O	O	N	D	E	P	O

Can you find all the words on the grid above?

CHILDREN
MOON
PENGUIN
TEACHER
BLACKBOARD
WHALE
FIREMAN
VOLCANO
SNAIL
WAVES

Drawing and Colouring

Use the grid to copy the picture of an octopus, then colour it in.



Draw your favourite thing you spotted on your coastal adventure in the box below.

Things to Spot on the Beach and in the Sea

Seaweed

Algae that grows in the ocean

Arctic tern

Black-capped bird that can travel long distances

Sea snails

Snails with spiral shells that live in saltwater

Starfish

Star shaped marine invertebrate with tube feet and a mouth

Oystercatcher

A black and white wading bird that likes to eat cockles

Mermaid's purses

Egg cases that once held the eggs of sharks and rays

Crabs

Crustaceans with two claws

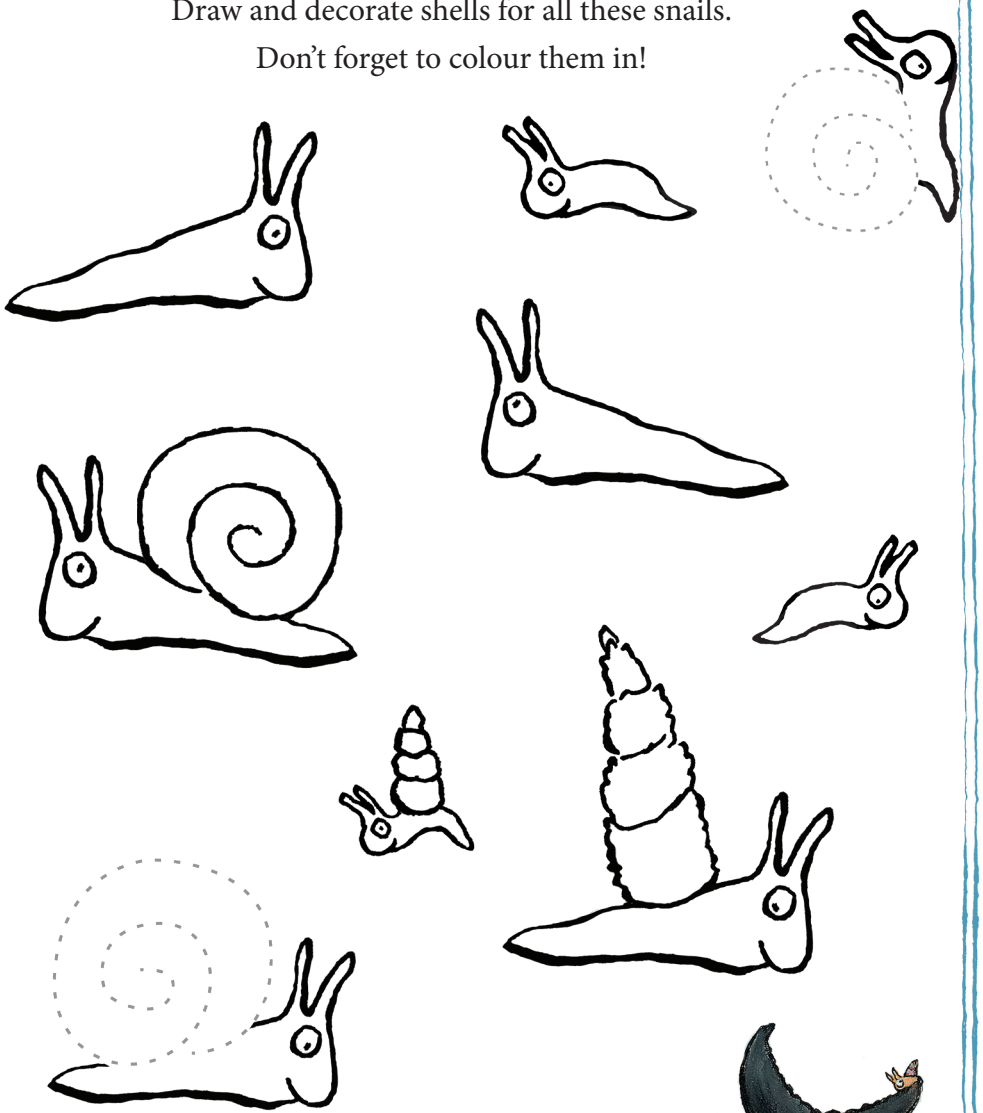
Limpets

Dome shaped molluscs that attach themselves to rocks using a muscular 'foot'

It's not just wildlife in the sea. Can you spot surfers, divers, fishing boats, ferries or wind farms?

Drawing and Colouring

Draw and decorate shells for all these snails.
Don't forget to colour them in!



Fun Marine Animal facts

Did you know? Whales and dolphins feed and communicate using echolocation, just like bats.

Did you know? The world's second largest shark is the basking shark, a common visitor to our waters. It is harmless and feeds on teeny tiny plankton.

Did you know? Some species of sharks give birth to live young, while some lay eggs.

Did you know? Whales and dolphins are mammals like us — they give birth to live young, breathe air and feed their babies milk.

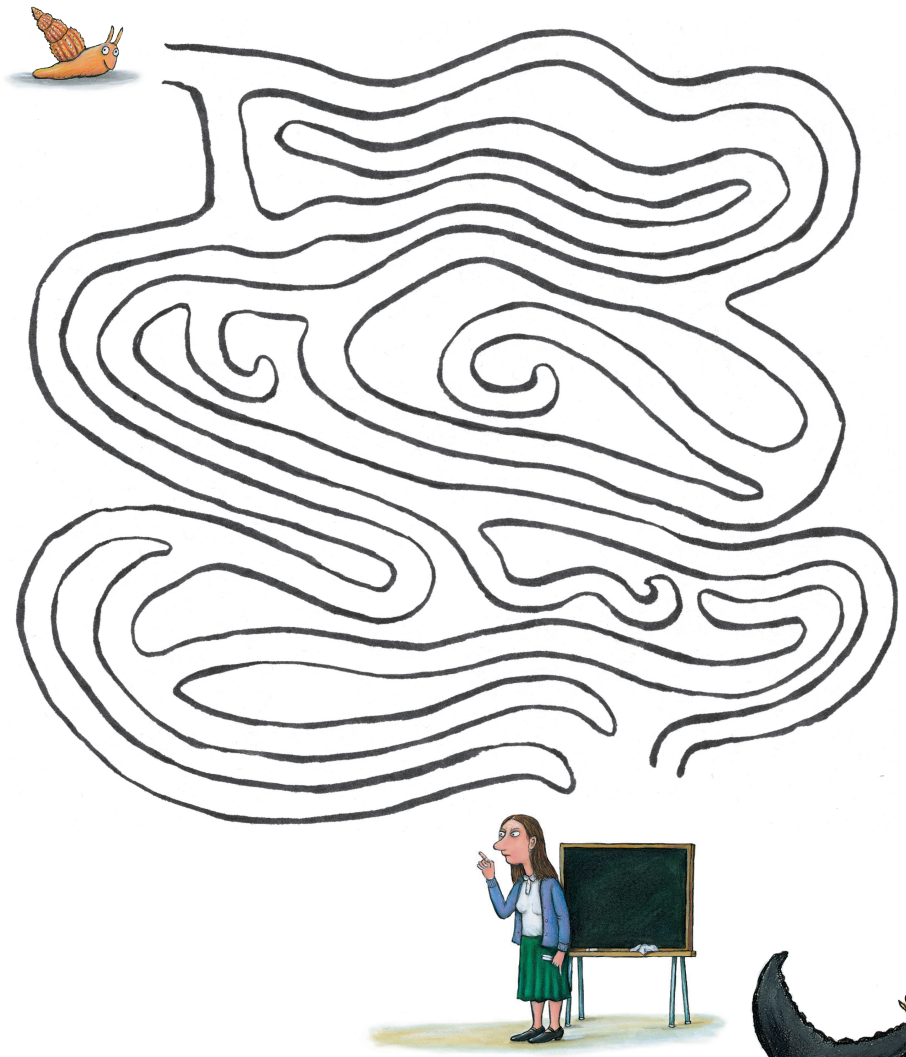
Did you know? Rays are closely related to sharks as their skeleton is made up of cartilage — just like the end of your nose and your ears.

Did you know? A killer whale or Orca is actually a dolphin. It is the largest species of dolphin.

Did you know? There are at least 21 species of shark living in UK waters all year round, and over 40 species can be found in the UK if you include seasonal visitors.

Off on an Adventure

Can you help the snail find a path through the maze to write a message on the teacher's chalkboard?



Looking After Our Coast!

Marine litter

One problem we can all help with is marine litter, particularly plastics. Plastic takes many years to disappear and if it gets into the sea it can kill wildlife, destroy their homes and pollute water.

Why not take a bag or bucket on your visit to the beach to collect any litter you see and put it in the bin. Be careful what you pick up though and always ask a grown-up if you think something might be sharp or dangerous. You could have a race and see who can pick up the most litter in two minutes! There might be a beach clean event close to where you live that you can get involved in too:

www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/events/gbbc

The England Coast Path

The England Coast Path will be a 2,700 miles long National Trail around the whole of the English coast. Once completed it will be the longest coastal walking route in the world. It will link up the best existing coastal paths and create new ones where there were none before, as well as joining up with the Wales Coast Path and walking rights in Scotland.

Check out the National Trail website to find paths in your area:

www.nationaltrail.co.uk

The *Snail and the Whale* is an exciting tale of adventure and friendship by the unparalleled picture-book partnership of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, creators of *The Gruffalo*. It was their sixth picture book together and published in 2003, celebrating 15 years in 2018.

Called 'bold and brilliant' by The Times and 'a joy to read aloud' by the Guardian, this family-favourite story has sold over 3.5 million copies worldwide in all formats. It has been translated into 29 languages, has inspired a play with music from Tall Stories theatre company, and will be coming to BBC One this Christmas in an animated special produced by Magic Light Pictures.

The sea is something we can all enjoy. If you look at the sea you might see wildlife, fishing boats, ferries, swimmers, surfers, wind farms and lots more, but have you ever thought about who looks after it? The Marine Management Organisation manages activities in England's seas so they're done in a sustainable way. This means that the sea can continue to be enjoyed by people for many years to come.

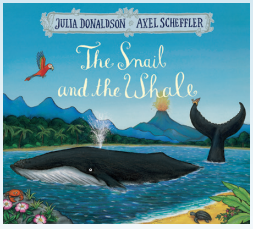
England has some beautiful landscapes and Natural England helps to protect these. Going outside and enjoying nature is important. It makes us feel good and keeps us active and healthy.

Find out more:

marinedevelopments.blog.gov.uk | @The_MMO
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england | @NaturalEngland
www.Gruffalo.com | @TheRealGruffalo
More activity sheets available at Gruffalo.com

You can download this activity booklet from:

https://www.panmacmillan.com/
snailandthewhalecoastaladventure



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