



# Suggested reading for children



## Fiction 8-12 years

### **The hidden Forest by Jeannie Baker**

This is the story of a small boy who has little concern for sea life until his fishing line gets caught in the kelp. His friend Sophie agrees to help him and takes him on a snorkeling journey beneath the sea where he sees the magical world of kelp forests and the creatures which live there. This opens his eyes and he becomes appreciative of the sea and its wildlife. It has beautiful collage illustrations.

### **Peter's place by Sally Grindley**

A powerful but positive story with a serious environmental message, in this case, about an oil tanker which has run aground and the damage it has caused. The illustrations which are by Michael Foreman depict beautifully the wild Cornish coastline.

### **One World By Michael Foreman**

This is a picture book about the threat of pollution to our coastal environment. A girl and her brother explore a rock pool and the creatures in it. They find an old rusty tin can and some oil. They decide to fill their bucket with all the creatures from the rock pool along with seaweed and shells. When they return to the rock pool they can see the lack of life there and decide to clean the pool by taking away the tin can and using a feather they remove the oil. Then they return all the living things they collected from the pool. The following day they return with their friends to check the other rock pools on the beach. Although this is a picture book and there isn't much text to read, it is an excellent example of a book where the illustrations are as important as the text. It would also appeal to older children.

## Non Fiction

### **See Under the sea (Flap book) Usborne**

A colourful, interesting flap book, which explores different marine habitats; the animals which live there and how humans affect the seas through overfishing, pollution etc.

### **The Rock Pool by David Bellamy**

David Bellamy explores the constantly changing life in a rock pool and the different creatures and plants which live there. The illustrations clearly show what happens when there is a disastrous oil spill.

### **Habitat explorer: Seashore, Fun things to do outdoors by Nick Baker**

Step by step projects encouraging children to explore what's around them.

### **Destroying the seas (protecting our planet) by Sarah Leveté**

This book looks at the interactions between humans and the physical world. It focuses on the implications of what we do today on our future world.

### **World without fish by Mark Kurlansky**

This book explains why all of the world's fish could be gone in 50 years and what this generation of children can do about it. It describes what will happen within 50 years if climate change, overfishing and pollution aren't dealt with soon. The book also has a 15 page fictional graphic novel about a marine biologist's daughter who witnesses the extinction of the world's fish in her lifetime. Although the book is meant to be for age 9+, it is more appropriate for 11 years to adults, and would be a good book for teachers who are interested in increasing their background knowledge.



## Recommended websites

[www.arrancoast.com](http://www.arrancoast.com)

'The Bay' video-

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tC2IAgeJrA&list=PLR3\\_rID2VR2gSt\\_NEwWQG09NLjIXPh4II&index=7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tC2IAgeJrA&list=PLR3_rID2VR2gSt_NEwWQG09NLjIXPh4II&index=7)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/rockpools/49.html>

[www.fishandkids.org](http://www.fishandkids.org) (marine stewardship council) activities, information, interactive games

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/blueplanet/games.shtml> for older children

[www.sheppardsoftware.com](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com) a selection of games and films on food chains, classification, life cycles, marine life etc. Choose science section.

[www.marinebio.org](http://www.marinebio.org)

[www.ecokids.ca](http://www.ecokids.ca) (a very good section on oceans)

[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround) (search sea pollution)

[www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com) search for 'the secret life of plankton' a beautiful and amazing six minute film narrated by a fish, showing the ocean's microscopic ecosystem.

[www.davidkemp.uk.com](http://www.davidkemp.uk.com) This web site has some great art works to stimulate discussion and inspire children to create their own using discarded objects.

[www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) choose learning zone, primary. Sections for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> class, environment, salty seas. (has a good section explaining what causes the tide to rise and fall).

[www.recyclingexpert.co.uk](http://www.recyclingexpert.co.uk)

'Once upon a tide', a modern fable about the pressures on our seas.

9min award winning film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9JWbOF5P24>

There are also lesson plans, activities and links to short film clips on this web site suitable for 9-12 year olds: [www.oceanliteracy.wp2.coexploration.org](http://www.oceanliteracy.wp2.coexploration.org)