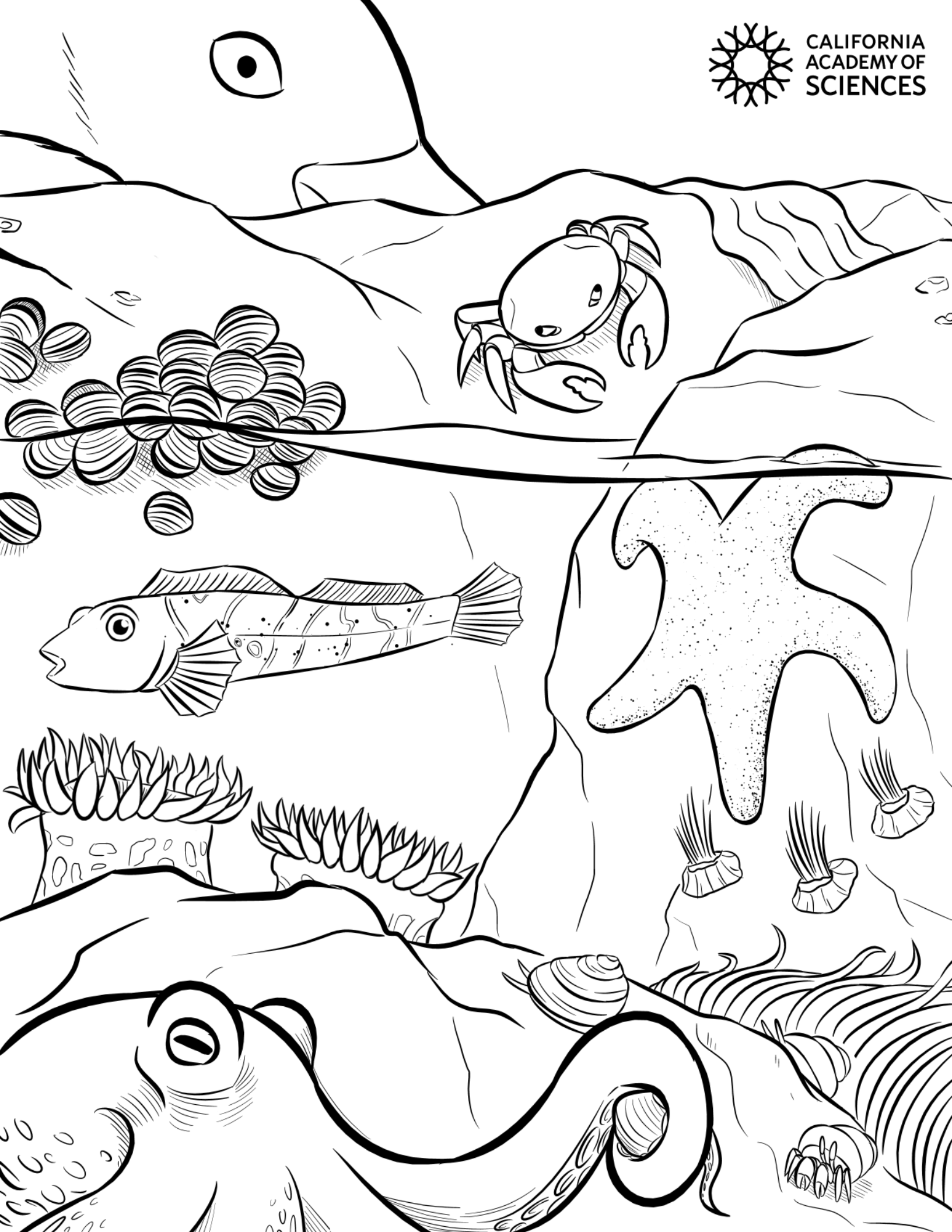




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# Creatures of the Tidepool

The tidepools of the California coast are brimming with life, both above and below water. Color in the animals and environment to make your own eye-catching tidepool!

**Seagull:** Predator of tidepools and open-air restaurants alike, the seagull is the most common seabird along the California coast. They are omnivores and will eat anything, including fish, crabs, snails, seeds, and the occasional french fry.

**Black Turban Snail:** Black turban snails are one of the most common snail species on the Pacific coast. Their black shell acts as protection, though they are still eaten by many other tidepool animals.

**Hermit Crab:** If you spot a snail moving at a faster-than-snail speed, you might actually be looking at a hermit crab! These crabs live in empty shells they find around the tidepools in order to protect their soft bodies. They constantly need to find larger shells as their bodies keep growing. You might even see two hermit crabs fighting for the same shell.

**Ochre Sea Star:** Sea stars will hunt limpets, urchins, snails, and any other animal that can't outrun them, opening even the most stubborn shells with their tube feet. These animals help manage the populations of mussels and other animals, clearing space in the tidepools.

**Tidepool Sculpin:** This fish is able to hide from predators thanks to its multicolored spots, allowing it to hunt for food in peace. And if the tidepool doesn't have enough oxygen during low tide, the sculpin can breathe directly from the air!

**Aggregating Anemone:** These anemones not only catch food with their tentacles, but also photosynthesize! Like their relatives the corals, tiny algae called zooxanthellae live inside the aggregating anemone which allow them to get energy even if the tide doesn't bring in enough food.

**Striped Shore Crab:** The striped shore crab is at home both above and below the water. Though it does need to return to the water to wet its gills, this crab can spend up to 70 hours on dry land, moving from pool to pool to scavenge dead animals, graze algae, or hunt snails.

**Octopus:** On rare occasions, octopuses can be found hiding in the tidepools at low tide. They like to eat crabs and snails, and can move for short periods of time out of water to continue their hunt. These shy animals tend to hide if a larger predator is in the area, and are able to slip through cracks in rocks that are as small as their beaks.

**California Mussel:** Found attached to tidepool rocks, California mussels often clump together in large groups. Their hard shell keeps them safe from all but the most determined predators.

**Acorn Barnacle:** Barnacles can't move around like their crustacean cousins: crabs, lobsters and shrimp. Instead, barnacles grow hard shells that are attached to tidepool rocks. They stick their thin feathery legs out of the shell's opening to collect plankton to eat.