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INTRODUCTION

MORE than two-thirds of the Earth's surface is covered by ocean waters. They are home to many different kinds of animals. Most ocean life is found close to the surface, where sunlight can pass through the water. Below 200 metres, very little light gets through. Only a few creatures can live in the dark, near-freezing depths of the ocean.

SEASHORE LIFE

SEASHORE life must be able to survive the tides (see page 9). They are covered by salt water when the tide comes in, and left out in the open air when the tide goes out again.

Some animals burrow into the sand or mud, where they can stay cool and moist. On rocky shores, limpets attach themselves to rocks. They keep moisture under their shell to stop drying out.

Oystercatchers use their long beaks to probe through the sand and rock-pools in search of food.



Oystercatcher

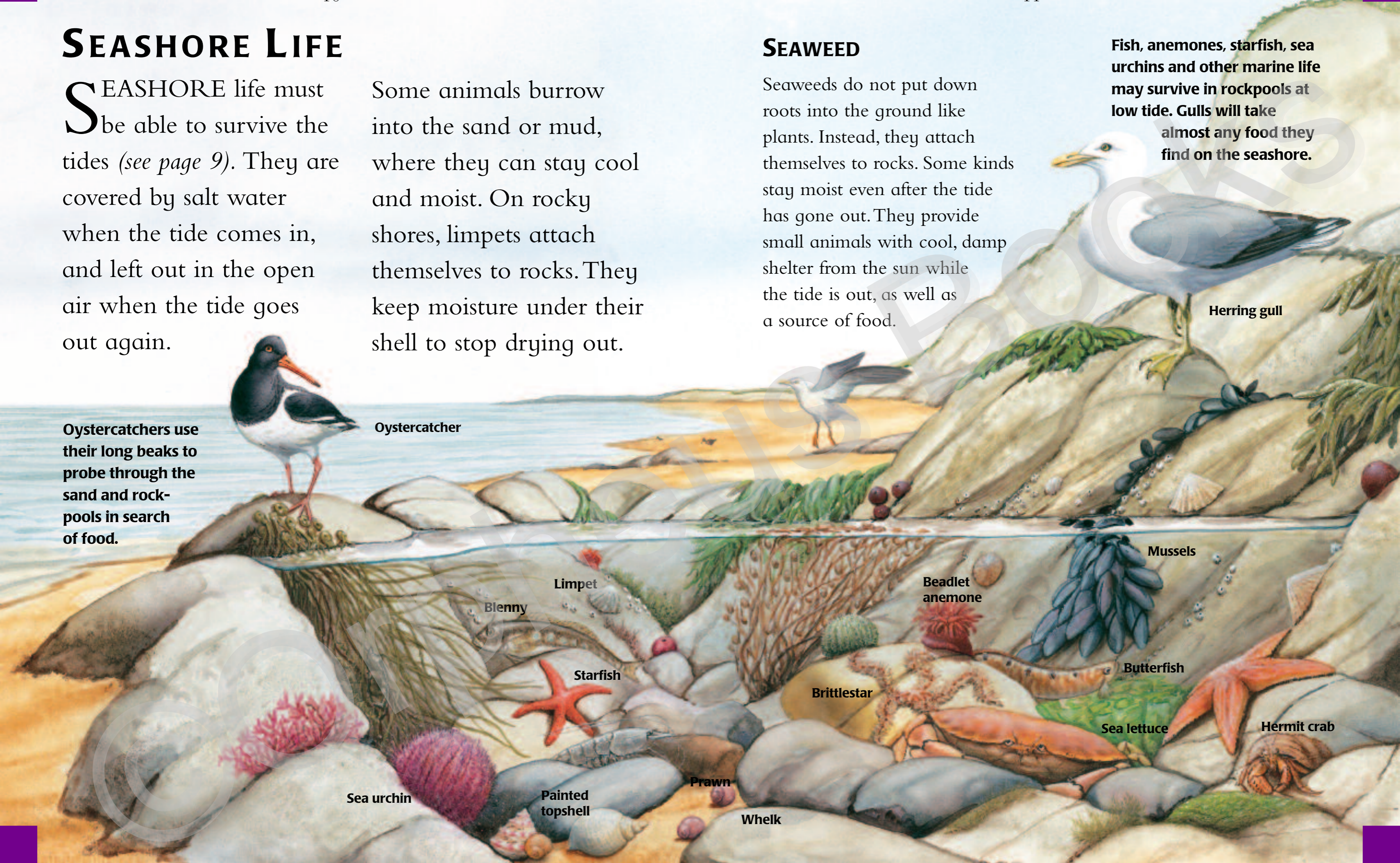
SEAWEED

Seaweeds do not put down roots into the ground like plants. Instead, they attach themselves to rocks. Some kinds stay moist even after the tide has gone out. They provide small animals with cool, damp shelter from the sun while the tide is out, as well as a source of food.

Fish, anemones, starfish, sea urchins and other marine life may survive in rockpools at low tide. Gulls will take almost any food they find on the seashore.



Herring gull



Blenny

Limpet

Starfish

Sea urchin

Painted topshell

Prawn

Whelk

Brittlestar

Beadlet anemone

Butterfish

Sea lettuce

Hermit crab

Mussels