Shore Shapers

Shore Shapers uses a field guide, workshops, training and online resources to highlight how animals, seaweeds and life forms too small to see with the naked eye help shape the coast, making rocky shores attractive to marvel at, explore and enjoy.

The UK's first biogeomorphology field guide for families and schools including games, challenges and information.

SHORE SHAPERS *are the living things that help to 'shape' rocks on the shore. Some you can see and some are too small.*

Sun, wind, frost, rain, and the sea wear away rock, playing an important role in shaping the shore, as do the things that live there. This is called **geomorphology**.

Waves hitting rocks can cause *them* to *break* and *move*.

3 groups of shore shaper

Rock eaters shape rocky shores by eating or dislodging rock particles as they feed.

Rock borers Are like living drills, grinding or dissolving rock as they excavate a home.

Rock protectors form crusts or blanket rocks protecting them from the elements.

Game cards available online and to cut out from the Shore Shapers Guide.

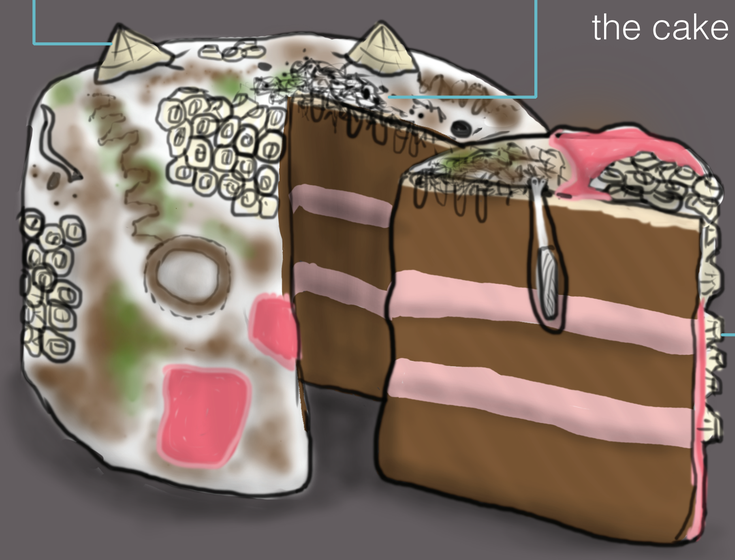
Pools and crevices partly made by shore shapers provide places for animals to live. The more features on a shore the more different things can live there.

Think of the rock you see as a cake!

The type of cake depends on the rock type as softer kinds are easier to sculpt. Shore Shapers help shape the cake.

Limpets and snails graze for food with their hard mouthparts so they EAT the cake, helping to shape it over time.

Worms, piddocks, bacteria and tiny algae bore into rock, creating holes and tunnels like Swiss cheese, making the cake light and delicate.



Larger seaweeds cover the cake protecting it from the elements and keeping it from getting too dry – like clingfilm!

Barnacles, tube worms and encrusting pink algae form a thick icing that protects the cake from the elements.

Heat from the sun and water from the sea make rocks **expand**.

cooling and drying makes them contract. This **breaks rocks** slowly over time.

Salt in seawater also cracks rocks when it crystallises.

The Sandcastle Challenge at the Big Bang South West 2014. One untreated, one 'bored' and one protected. Which will erode fastest?

Did it Work?

A survey of 77 people (36 children aged under 16 and 41 adults) conducted using a draft version of the guide showed that 82% of participants had a better understanding of how rock pools form and change over time, after seeing the guide. 90% surveyed found some species more interesting than they had previously thought, with limpets and boring worms voted most interesting!

www.shoreshapers.org **@shoreshapers** **shoreshapers@gmail.com**

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