



Many of the treasures you find here belong to the sand, the rocks, the ocean and the wind. Please do not take them away with you, the shore is their home.

As you walk on and return to the start
Happy and tired but incredibly smart.
You now know much more about strange looking things
Swimmers with fins and fliers with wings.
You've met creepers and crawlers, a networking plant.
It's time now to play and do what you want.

This is our home,
Please leave us alone.

FACTOID ALERT:

Different birds visit in the colder months, watch out for Eider Duck, Snow Bunting, Graylag Geese and Curlews.



Grey heron



Front Page : Shore Crab - Harebell - Oyster Catcher - Burnett Moth

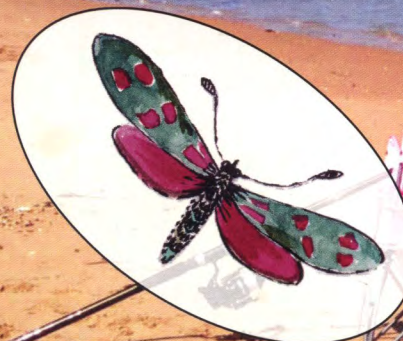
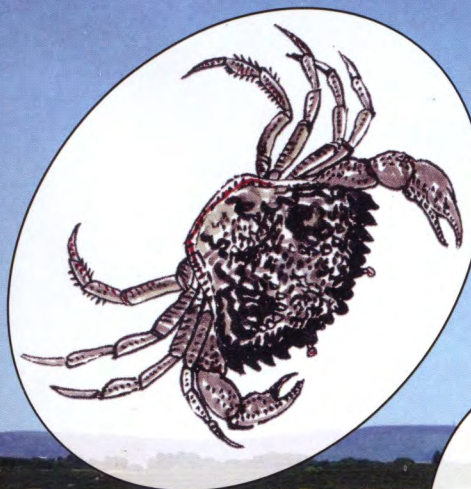
Illustrations by : Wild Orr Workshop

Booklet supported by : Dornoch Area Community Council,
Dornoch Area Community Interest Company,
Dornoch & District Community Association
Ian Paterson - Highland Council Countryside Ranger.

Visit Historylinks Museum in Meadows Road, Dornoch for help to finish the quiz,

Dornoch Beach Treasure Walk

FREE GUIDE INCLUDING MAP



Dornoch
You can do it all from here



Hello, I'm Callum the Crab.
Can you hunt for these?



A board on the bank has some birds drawn here. Terns are quite common, others more rare. Which one of them might at a picnic appear?

Answer

.....

A small summer visitor might have sat here,
How long did she stay before flying away?

Answer

.....



What beams can be seen
across the bay to light the
North Sea way?

Answer

.....



Go left along the fence down to the sand, counting as you go. How many steps to the beach, do you know?

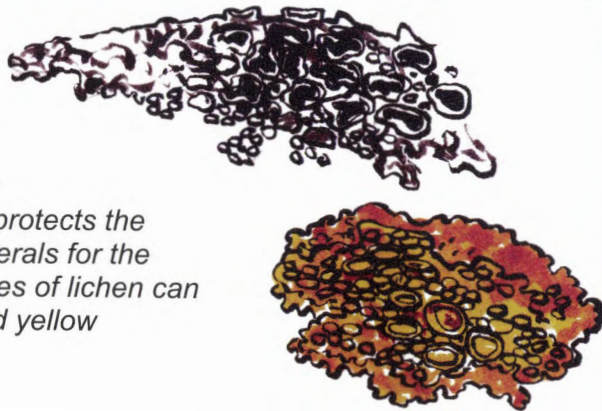


NOW TURN LEFT



As you walk there's a rock in the shape of a croc, Look closely now at its skin. It is spotty and rough and really quite tough. It's patches of high water lichen.

FACTOID ALERT: Lichen is an organism made up of an alga and a fungus which work together to make the LICHEN. The algae makes the food for the lichen through photosynthesis and the fungi protects the algae and gets water and minerals for the lichen (SYMBIOSIS). Two types of lichen can be seen here, black shield and yellow

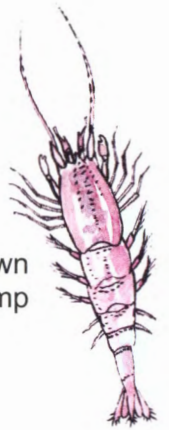


A rocky outcrop lies ahead where letters may be read. Find there in old sandstone the initials of someone unknown?

Answer



Hermit Crab



Brown Shrimp



Barnacles



Sea Anemone



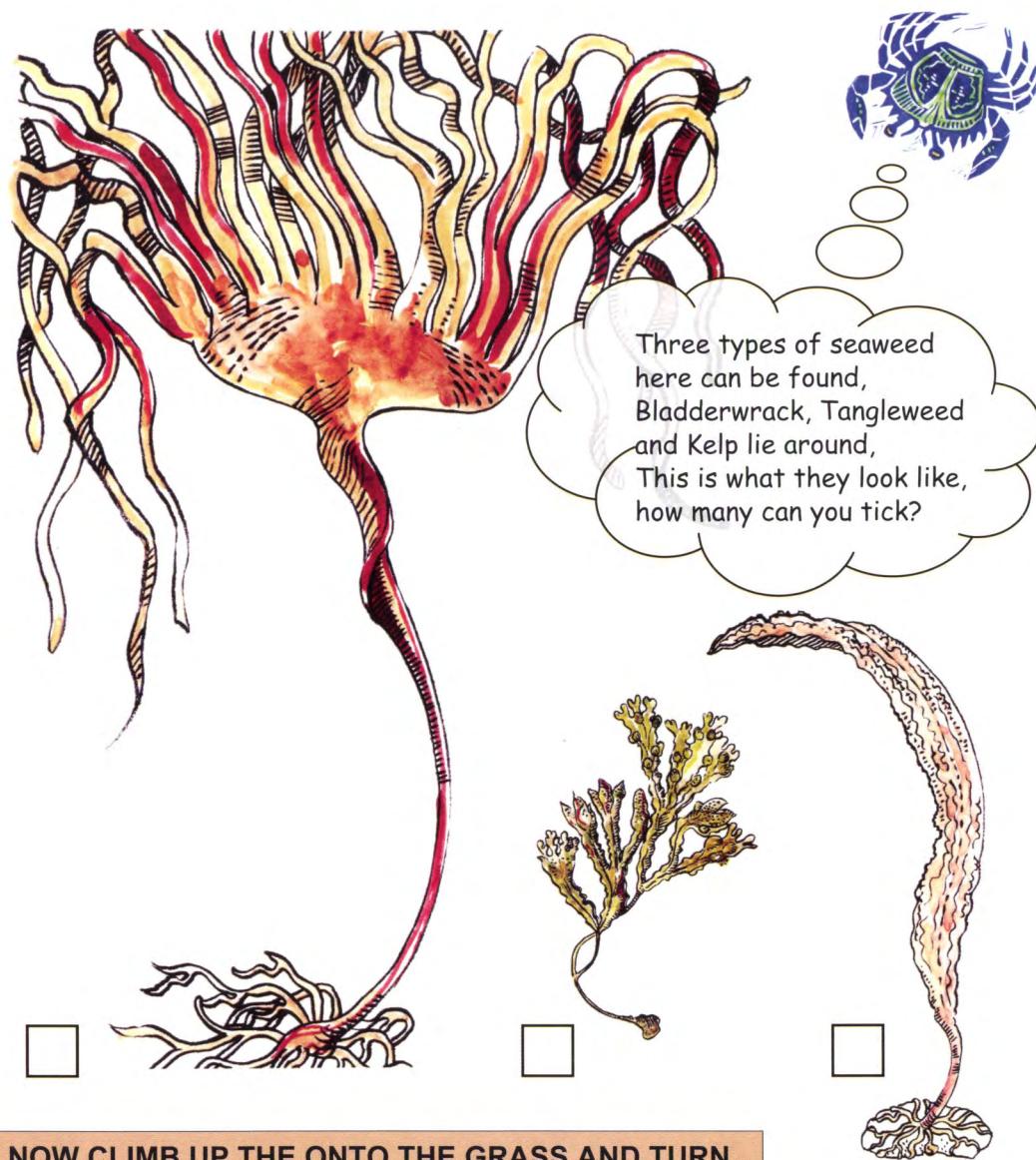
Starfish

FACTOID ALERT: When the tide has gone out and the rocks are exposed you can lean over the small pools of water that appear in the rocks. Shrimp can be found bobbing in the pools and hermit crabs skulk under clumps of seaweed. Starfish cling to the rock face and kelp seaweed wafts in the water, providing cover for snails and small fish. Barnacles and anemones sit on the pool floor.

Plants and animals that live in rock pools are hardy, surviving changes in water temperatures, pounding waves, changing oxygen levels and exposure to sunlight for long periods.



Did you find any of these things in the pools?

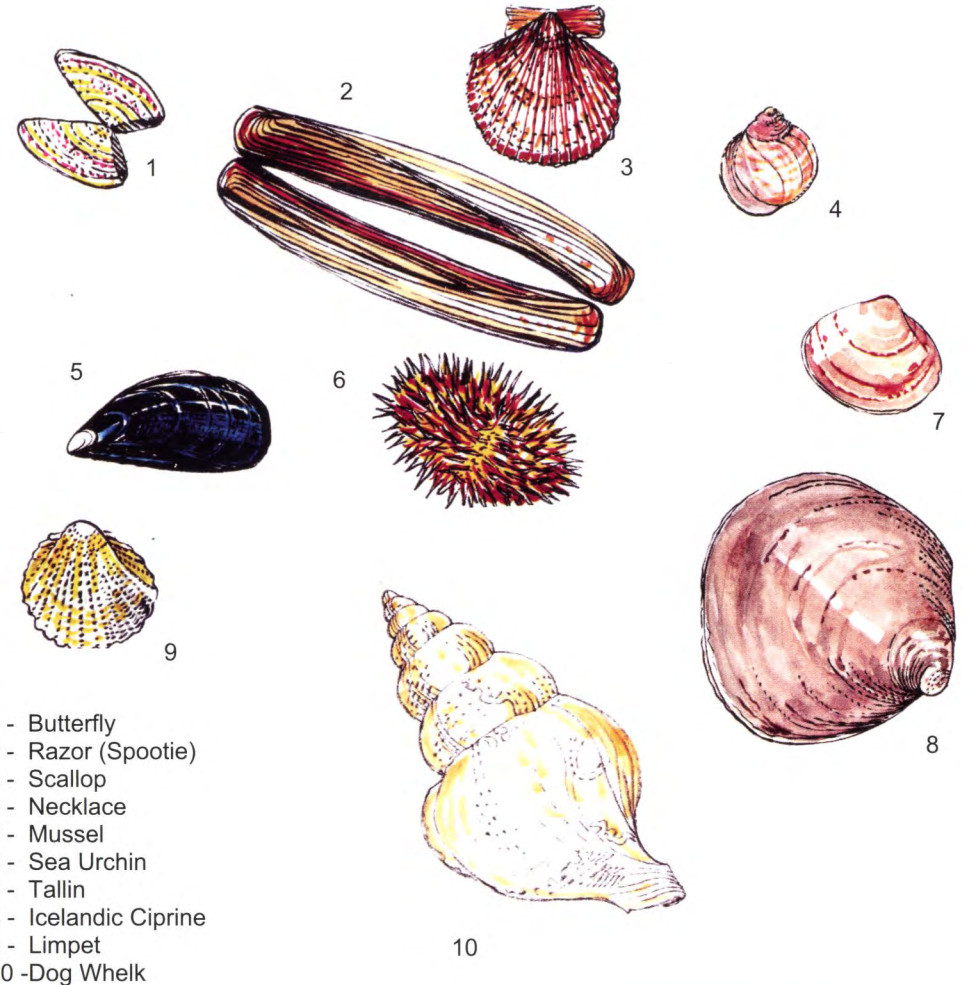


NOW CLIMB UP THE ONTO THE GRASS AND TURN LEFT ALONG THE PATH TOWARDS THE CAR PARK

FACTOID ALERT: Pass a quarry on your right now full of water. This provided the stone for many fine Dornoch houses built in the 19th century. This seam of rock runs under the sea to Tarbet Ness across the bay and is part of the Orcadian Basin. These Upper Old Red Sandstone rocks occur onshore as outcrops. They were made by rivers dropping sandy silt (SEDIMENTATION). The sediment was then pressed and squeezed by the movements of the Earth for millions of years to make the rocks you can see here.



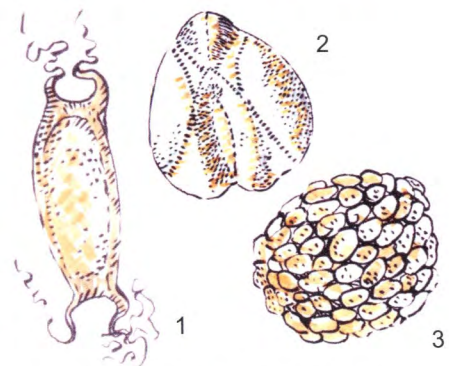
The walk now crosses the car park, down the ramp beside the lifeboat shed and back onto the beach. How many shells can you find?



FACTOID ALERT: Dog whelks eat other molluscs by boring holes in their shells with a hard toothed tongue (RADULA) after first secreting a shell softening chemical through its foot. If you find a shell with a neat little hole in it then it has probably been a dog whelk's dinner. However mussels have developed a defence by tying and immobilising with threads any dog whelks unwise enough to invade their beds. The whelks then starve to death.



FACTOID ALERT: If you are lucky you may find a chunk of sea-washed coal on the beach. These uninspiring lumps look like black smoothed rocks but are unexpectedly light. It is believed that they come from a ship wrecked on the rocks in 1876 when the coal laden Brig "Courier" sank in a storm. Sadly all but one of the crew drowned.



A purse, a potato and some eggs in a cluster sometimes rest on the sand But these ones look strange, almost as if they come from an alien land.

Which is which?

- Whelk's eggs
- Sea Potato
- Mermaid's Purse



When you reach the Dornoch Burn, turn inland. Then turn right before you reach the Caravan Park and follow the path back to the car park.



High in the sky blue and clear
The song of a Skylark might reach your ear
The Stone Chat will scold if you are too bold
And Common Blue butterflies flit around here

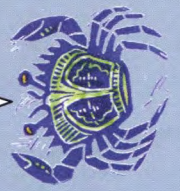


Stone Chat

Ragged Robin

Kidney Vetch

Can you see a small yellow ground flower growing anywhere around? The Kidney Vetch is the only food this common blue butterfly will eat.



FACTOID ALERT: The grasses here are have deep strong roots which reach down in search of moisture, while creeping stems (RHIZOMES) extend sideways below the surface. These underground networks capture blown sand and help to stabilise shifting dunes. Marram and Sea Lime grasses' waxy leaves are rolled inwards to prevent water loss (EVAPORATION) from the surface, while tiny hairs alongside the inside minimise air flow that could carry water away.



Marram Grass



Skylark

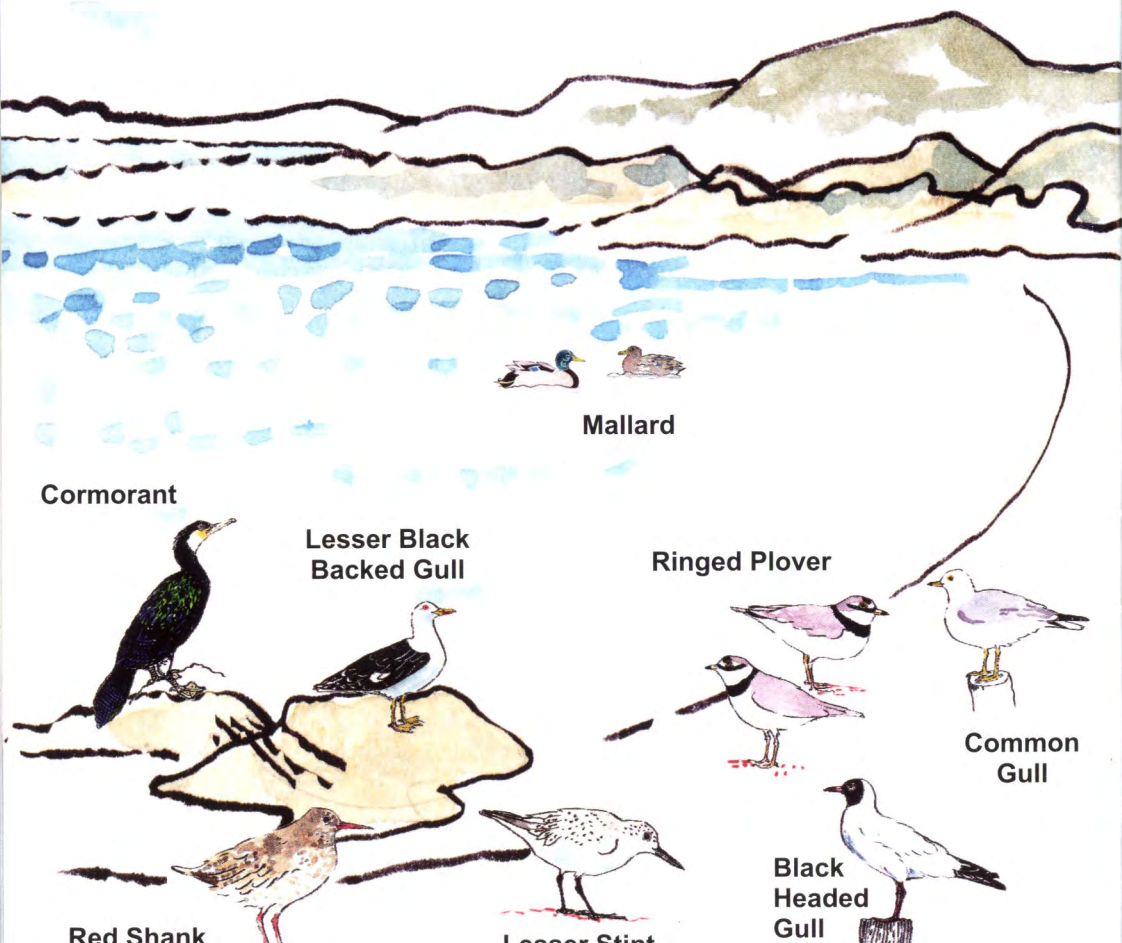


Herring Gull

Many birds live here.

How many different ones can you count?

Answer



MY TREASURE CHEST



- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Herring Gull | ☐ Bladderwrack | ☐ Skylark | ☐ Sea Potato |
| ☐ Acorn Barnacle | ☐ Marram Grass | ☐ Lighthouse | ☐ Butterfly Shell |
| ☐ Mussel | ☐ Shore Crab | | |



What Treasures did **you** find?
Tick the boxes.