

# LEARN AT CHESTER ZOO

## ROCK-POOLING FOR FISH

### EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- ID guide (see our *Fish eye-identification* resource)
- A bucket or a plastic container (like a sandwich box) or a net
- Strong footwear
- Weather-safe clothes, will it be hot or cold?
- Sun protection (if required)
- A handheld magnifier or jar (optional)

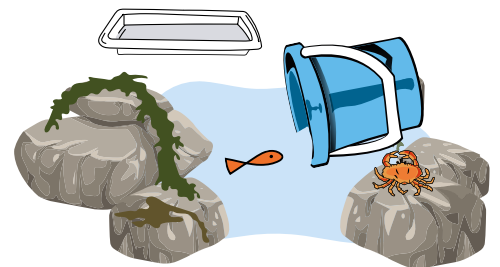
### HOW TO FIND AND CATCH FISH



1. With your container in hand, approach the pond or rock pool slowly and try not to cast a shadow over the pool – the fish that live there might think you are a predator and will hide.
2. Watch the area for a minute and see what moves. Sometimes turning over a rock can help.
3. When you've spotted something, dip the corner or edge of the container into the water and pull back, gently scooping up the fish.
4. For a closer look you can transfer it to a clear jar with lots of water or use handheld magnifier.
5. Record, identify and take a photo of your discovery. Return them carefully by submerging the bucket or jar back into the water where you found them. See something that isn't a fish? Check out our *Go water dipping* resource for clues of what it might be!

### BEFORE YOU GO!

Research and choose the beach or pond you want to visit. For beaches, try to choose ones with sheltered rocky shores and visit them during low tide to get the most from your visit.



### RAY FINDS

You may not find a ray fish when rock-pooling but you might see something rare! Reporting your rare finds to wildlife charities helps build a more complete picture of where our rare marine UK wildlife is choosing to live. You may even contribute to creating a Marine Conservation Zone. Find out more about Marine Conservation Zones [here](#).

**NEVER** keep your fish in the bucket or jar for too long as the change in temperature will cause them stress.