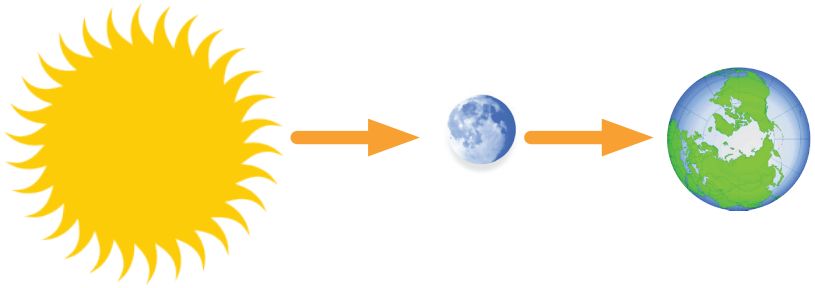
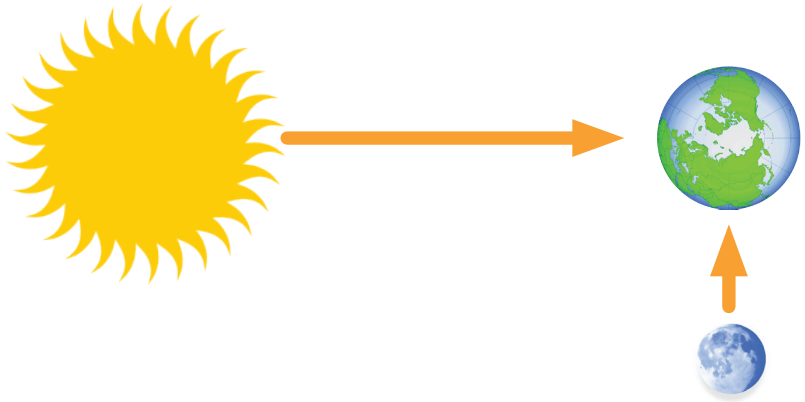
HOW TIDES WORK - PART II

Tides have a big impact on what can and cannot live on the shore. On the Exmoor coast, the sea will rise and fall vertically over the shore twice a day. It is the position of the sun and the moon that cause the tide to move different amounts each day. As the sun, the moon and the earth are always moving the tides move differently each day.



Spring Tide

When the sun and moon are in line, they both pull the sea in the same direction so the water moves a long way. This is a SPRING TIDE (nothing to do with the seasons).

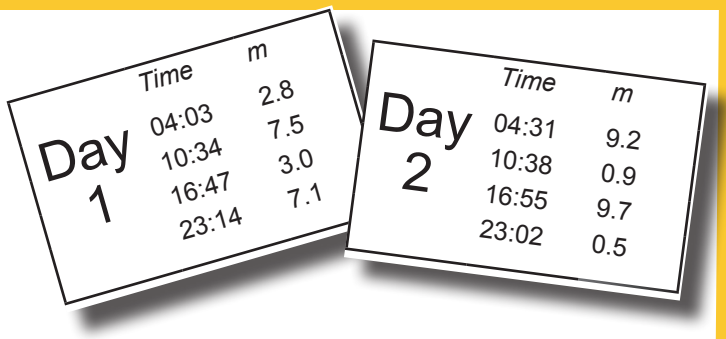


Neap Tide

The moon is sometimes at a right angle to the earth. This means the sun and moon pull the sea in different directions and the water doesn't get moved as much. This is a NEAP TIDE.

Tide times

The best time to explore the shore is during low tide, when the water is lowest. To understand when to visit and to see the tidal height, look at tide tables which you can get from the internet. Here are some example tide times for Lynmouth in Devon. Sheet 23 includes more information about tide tables.



Quiz Time!

Q1. How much time is there between high and low tide (to the nearest hour)?

Q2. Which day would be Neap Tides and which would be Spring Tides?

Q3. What position would the sun and moon be in to get neap tides?

Q4. What position would the sun and moon be in for Spring tides?

Q5. When would be the best time to go rockpooling? Remember, low tide during the day is the best time.

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