The object of this game is to create a tide pool animal out of sponges and toothpicks or wire that can successfully cling onto your made-up tide pool “rocks”.

1. First, make your tide pool! If you use your bathtub, grab a yoga mat or a nonslip bath mat to protect your tub. Tide pools come in all sizes, so a big bucket or a large cooking pot will work also. Create a series of rocky outcrops using real rocks or different items to simulate a rocky shore inside your tide pool container. This is the area of the tide pool that in low tide will have just a small amount of water in it. The rocks will be above the water level.

2. Next you are going to create an animal. A purple urchin is easy to make using sponges and toothpicks. Cut the sponge into a circle and poke toothpicks deep into the sponge, sticking out all over it. That’s your urchin.

A sea star can be made of a sponge with pipe cleaners or vegetable wire coming out from a sponge center. They have 5 arms. Try making a mussel. They hold on to rocks by wrapping their byssal threads around rocks to hold on. Try tying some string around a ball of socks and tying it to a rock.

3. Once you have made your animal, attach it to the “rocks”. Make sure it seems stable and secure.

4. Now comes the fun part!—the tide is coming in. The water level is rising with waves rushing towards the shore. The animals are holding on tight so as not to get knocked off the rocks by the crashing waves. The waves are strong and powerful.

Fill up your second bucket or bowl with water and throw the water with the force of incoming waves onto your tide pool.

Did your animal manage to withstand the force of the waves?!

5. Try repositioning your animals or devising new ways to make them cling onto the “rocks.” Do you think the animals living in tide pools have to be strong?

6. You can test your tide pool creatures inside in a bathtub, shower or sink or take it outside. You can do it over and over again just like the ocean waves coming in with the tide.

Sea stars, purple urchin and sea anenomes are common animals in tide pools.

What you need:

A kitchen sponge cut up in different shapes
Toothpicks or pipe cleaners or vegetable wrapping wire
String
Bathtub, big wide bucket, mop bucket or big cooking pot or bowl
Another smaller bucket or bowl
Some rocks, bricks or other heavy rock-like substitute