

## **What is it like to live on a sandy beach?**

### **Sunlight exposure**

Full exposure, no shade.  
High temperatures when tide is out.

### **Soil**

Sand & shell litter.  
Organic nutrients are constantly being washed out by wave action.  
The yellow colour of the sand is from a coating of minerals and nutrients surrounding the white quartz core of the sand grains. However, these minerals are difficult for plants to access.

### **Stability**

Sand is constantly being moved by wave action.  
Impossible for plants to take root or animals to make permanent burrows in this zone.

### **Shelter**

Burying in the sand is the only place for animals to shelter.

### **Water**

No fresh water.

### **Salinity**

Covered twice daily by seawater  
Only marine plants & animals can live in this zone

## **What plants and animals can you find on a sandy beach?**

### **Plants**

Marine Algae *Caulerpa cupressoides*, *C. taxifolia*  
Beach Spinifex *Spinifex sericeus*  
Pandanus (fruit) *Pandanus tectorius*

### **Invertebrates**

Bluebottle *Physalia physalis*  
Sand snail *Polinices* sp.  
Eugarie/Pipi *Donax deltoides*  
King Worm *Australonuphis teres*  
Ghost Crab *Ocypode* sp.  
Cuttlefish (bone) *Sepia* so.

### **Vertebrates**

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*  
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*  
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*  
Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*  
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*  
Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*  
Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* (baleen)  
Bottlenose Dolphin (bone) *Tursiops truncatus*