

Beneath the Waves



When many people think of geology, they think of mountains, canyons and other landforms. But what happens beneath the waves can be pretty astonishing.

This Celtic Region enjoys some fascinating underwater geology that plays host to a variety of unusual animals. In shallow waters, where the sun reaches, the bedrock can be covered by carpets of sea squirts which filter out the tiny plankton swept past them in the tidal currents. In the summer months massive Basking Sharks join the plankton feast.

In deeper waters the gravel seabed is home to lobsters and crabs, while outcrops of rock are grazed by sea urchins and octopuses. Other rock ridges support sponges, different species of anemones. Some marine worms create chalky shells around themselves in which to withdraw from danger. They often live together in colonies, and their coiled or tubular shells can be found on pebbles on the shore.

Rock reefs teem with life, like sea anemones, sponges, the curious soft coral known as 'Dead Man's Fingers' and many more creatures jostling for position in the food-rich currents.



The party doesn't stop above the waves, though. The amazing slate sea cliffs of this Celtic Region also play host to huge colonies of Grey Seals, which clamor up onto the rocks to breed, bask, and feed their rambunctious pups.

Do you know the Celtic Region
that rocks in the briny deep? ISLE OF MAN