

Creature Feature

MISSION: Echinoderms



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ECHINODERMS (meaning “spiny skin”) are a family of animals with no blood, no brain, and no bones!

These special animals have some unique *ADAPTATIONS* that help them thrive throughout the ocean, from the harsh and constantly changing rocky shore habitat to the deep ocean.

Below are the four common echinoderms found along our rocky shore.



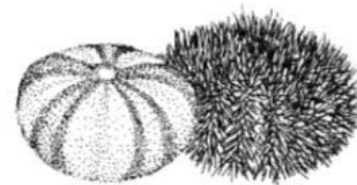
Northern Sea Star
(asterias)



Brittle Star



Blood Star



Green Sea Urchin

SEA STARS

An adaptation is a body part or a behavior that helps a living thing survive in its *ENVIRONMENT*. For example, humans have adapted to walk on two legs (bipedalism) so that we can use our hands for other things. *ORGANISMS* that live on the rocky shore, like the sea star, use adaptations to survive the harsh and constantly changing environment. The sea star has some wild adaptations, like having two stomachs, that help it eat prey! Watch this [video](#) as SSC naturalist Daryn tells you all about sea star adaptations!



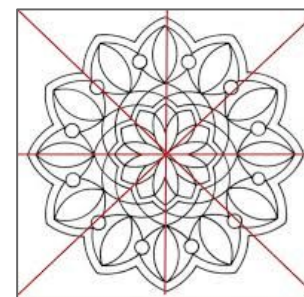
Click [here](#) to read more and follow along with a fun virtual tool!

What structure do sea stars use to move around?

What adaptation did you find to be the most interesting?

TIME TO CREATE:

You just learned that sea stars have *RADIAL SYMMETRY*. Did you know that mandalas have radial symmetry too? To make your own, start at the center of your paper, rock or shell. Continue to move outward, decorating in a symmetrical pattern.



[CLICK HERE](#) FOR PRE-MADE SEA STAR MANDALAS THAT YOU CAN COLOR!

