

Sea Urchins

Sea Urchins are echinoderms, a group of animals with no blood, no brain and no bones. “Echinoderm” means spiny-skinned.



A sea urchin shell is called a test. This test shows the bumps where spines were attached.



Urchins are related to sea stars, sand dollars, sea cucumbers.



Like their relatives, the sea stars, sea urchins can regenerate parts of their body. They can regrow spines in as little as two weeks!



Using their teeth, known as Aristotle's lantern, urchins graze on algae. You can see the teeth in the middle of this sea urchin.



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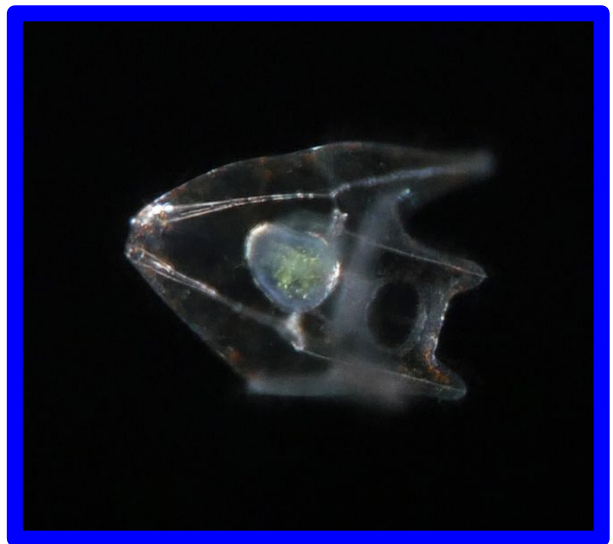
Sea urchins get their name from an old english word for hedgehog.



This sea urchin is using its tube feet to hold onto shells to act as camouflage



The award for longest spines goes to the appropriately name long-spined sea urchin, with the largest individuals reaching 30 inches!



Baby sea urchins start out as larvae, and some species can live up to 100 years! Using radiocarbon testing, scientists have even estimated the age of some urchins to be 200 years old!