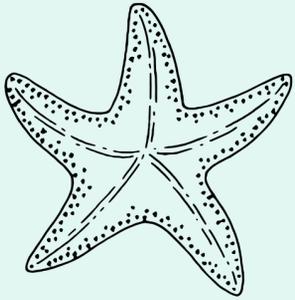


Echinoderms

The Pacific Northwest is home to over 300 species of echinoderms. Echinoderms include sea stars, feather stars, brittle stars, sea urchins and sea cucumbers. All echinoderms have some manner of hard chalky skeleton and penta-radial (five-armed) symmetry.

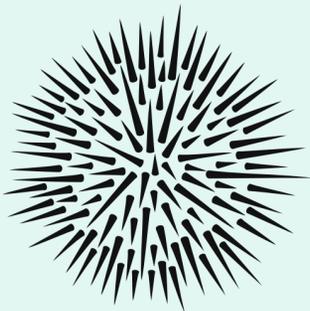


Sea Stars

Sea stars have a distinctive body plan in the shape of a star.

They are most commonly found clinging to rocks.

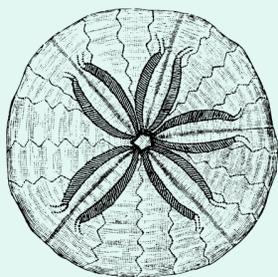
There are over 30 described species of sea stars in BC.



Sea Urchins

Sea urchins got their name from the Old English word for spiny hedgehog.

Sea urchins use their spines to deter predators, and some have stinging cells for further defense.



Sand Dollars

Sand dollars are unique group of sea urchins. They have a flattened body plan and lack large spines.

Sand dollars live primarily subtidal, either on top of or just beneath the sand.



Sea Cucumbers

Sea cucumbers have a soft body shaped similar to a cucumber.

They have small tentacle-like tube feet which they use for locomotion and feeding. There are over 20 species of sea cucumber found in BC.