

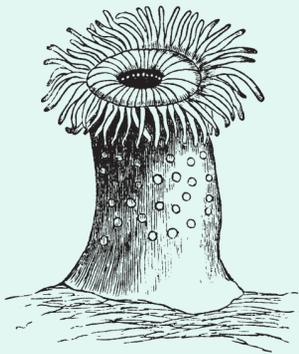
Cnidaria

The name cnidaria comes from the Greek word "cnidos" which means stinging nettle. Cnidarians are a family of marine invertebrates that kill their predators and prey by firing tiny, poisonous harpoons called nematocysts. Jellies, anemones, corals, and hydroids are all examples of cnidarians. In this area, cnidaria are preyed on by sea stars, sea slugs, and fish.



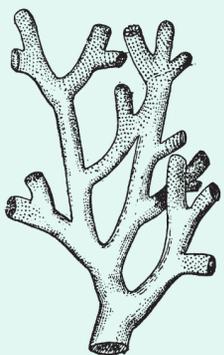
Jellies

Jellies have been in the oceans for millions of years. Lots of jellies are clear, but some are vibrant colours or even bioluminescent, meaning they produce their own light. Jellies do not have a brain, heart, bones, or eyes. Some common jellies in this area are the moon jelly, box jellies, and the fried egg jelly.



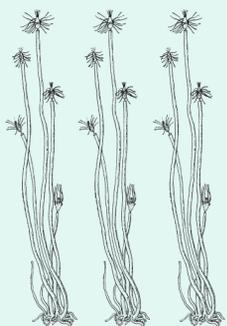
Anemones

Anemones have a tube like body with a pedal disk which attaches to a hard surface and an oral disk surrounded by stinging tentacles. Anemones are sessile, which means that they like to stay in one spot. They can change their body shape by adjusting their internal water pressure.



Corals

Corals are colonies of tiny animals called polyps. All of the polyps living in one colony are clones (genetically identical). Coral reefs protect coastlines from storms and erosion and play an important role in our marine environments.



Hydroids

These plant-like creatures are actually animals that are usually found living under docks. Hydroids are formed of colonies of polyps and can be either male or female. There are many types of hydroids including ostrich-plumes and orange hydroids.