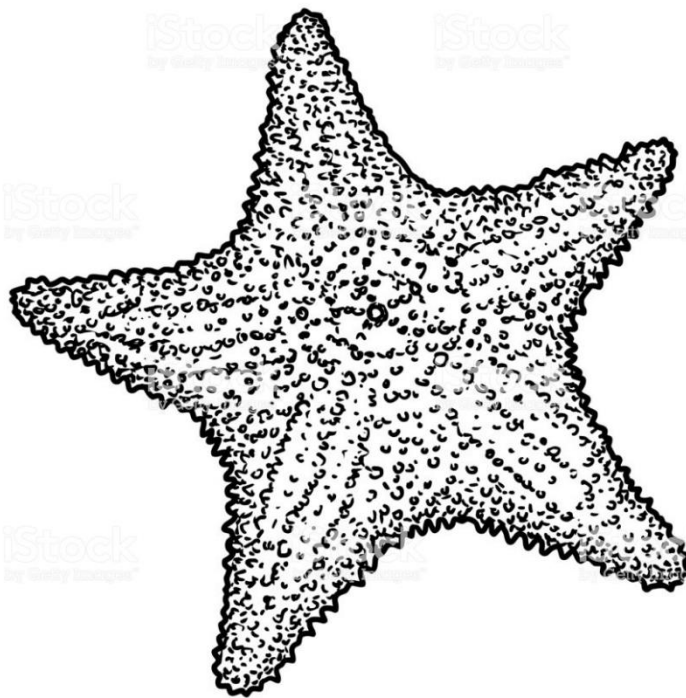


Sea Stars

Sea star is a better name than starfish for this animal since it is not actually a fish. It is a marine invertebrate with no bones. It is from a group of animals called echinoderms, which name translates to 'spiny skin'. Sea urchins are also from this group. Sea stars vary in colour, shape and size.



- Sea stars have between 5-40 arms. Some can grow new arms to replace injured or lost ones.
- Beneath each arm is a groove containing rows of tube feet with suckers on their tips.
- Sea stars use their tube feet to hold food, attach themselves and move around.
- Just beneath the sea star's skin are hard plates which support and protect it.
- The sea star's mouth is located on the underside of its body.
- To feed, most sea stars push their stomach through their mouths and digest their food outside the body.

Questions

- How would you describe the shape of a sea star?
- What do you think the sea star would feel like?
- How might this animal protect itself?
- What do you think a sea star eats?