

Marine Life Appreciation

Exercise Cards

Marine Life Appreciation | October 2017

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Echinoderms

- Body based on a pattern of 5 (with a few exceptions)
- Bright, hard skin
- Large number of tube-like feet, sometimes extremely small
- Hard spines in rows or all over the body
- Starfish, brittlestars, urchins, featherstars, sea cucumbers

Crustaceans

- Hard outer shell
- Jointed legs made up of several parts
- Obvious eyes, sometimes on stalks
- Obvious body segments (underneath on crabs)
- Crabs, lobsters, shrimps, prawns, barnacles

Cnidarians

- Flower-like appearance
- Tentacles to trap food
- Range of bright colours
- Stinging cells
- Corals, anemones, sea-pens, sea firs, jellyfish

Mollusca

- Chalky shells (except octopus and sea slugs)
- Variety of colours and patterns
- Fleshy body
- No obvious body segments, invertebrates
- Snails, sea slugs (nudibranchs), octopus, squid, cuttlefish

Algae / Seaweed

- Green, brown or red
- Mucus-covered surface and a slippery feel
- Has some means of attachment (eg, kelp – holdfast)
- Flat or feathery appearance
- Kelp, seaweed

Sponges (Porifera)

- Porous structure
- Internal skeleton or framework
- Sessile (fixed in one place, immobile)
- Attached in colonies to underwater surfaces

Worms

- wiggly or rippling motion, if in the open
- hard tubes may be visible
- retracts quickly into tube

Bryozoans

- individual tiny animals maybe visible if undisturbed
- easily mistaken for other groups

Tunicates

- Invertebrate filter feeders
- Sessile (fixed in one place, immobile)
- Usually grow in colonies
- Feed by filtering particles out of seawater through siphons
- Sea squirts