

**No
Backbone!**
The World of Invertebrates

Prickly Sea Stars



by **Natalie Lunis**

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by Natalie Lunis

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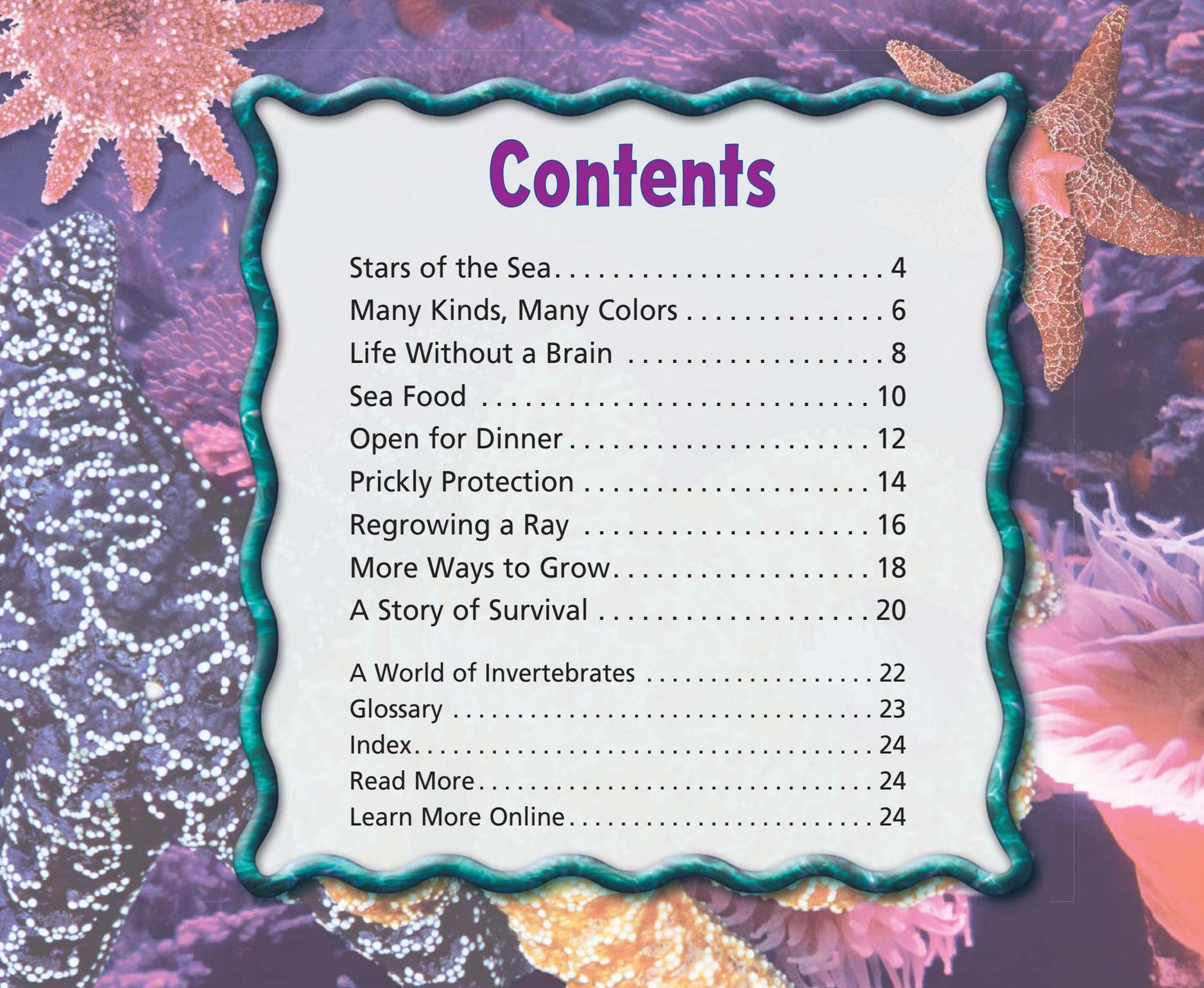
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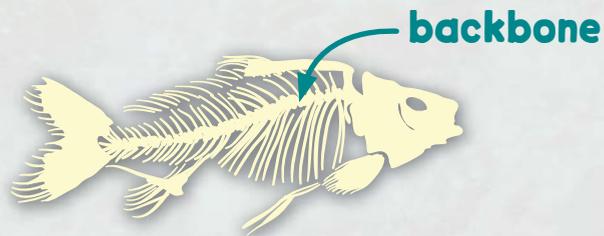
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Stars of the Sea

Sea stars are animals that live in the sea.

Some people call them starfish, but they are not fish.

All fish have **backbones**.



Sea stars don't have backbones.

They don't even have heads!





A sea star
gets its name from
the way its body
is shaped—like
a star.

Many Kinds, Many Colors

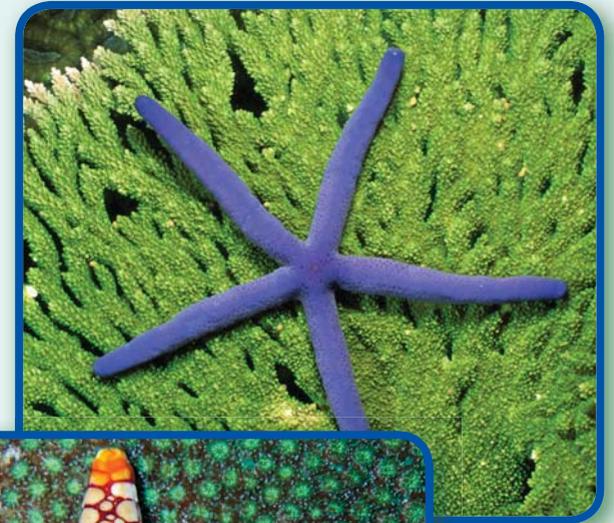
There are about 1,800 kinds of sea stars.

Some sea stars are as small as one inch (2.5 cm) across.

Others are as big as two feet (61 cm).

Sea stars can be many different colors.

Yet they all have arms, called **rays**, connected to the center of their bodies.



Most sea stars have five rays, but some have up to 40.





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Svancara, Theresa. *Sea Stars and Other Echinoderms*. Chicago: World Book, Inc. (2002).

Zuchora-Walske, Christine. *Spiny Sea Stars*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner (2001).



Learn More Online

To learn more about sea stars, visit www.bearportpublishing.com/NoBackbone

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Backbone!**
The World of Invertebrates

Prickly Sea Stars



Sea stars don't have a head or a brain, yet they are still able to hunt for food. How? Dive into the weird and watery world of these headless creatures to find out.

Crawling Crabs

Goopy Jellyfish

Prickly Sea Stars

Slimy Sea Slugs

Squirting Squids

Squishy Sponges

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