



**No
Backbone!**
The World of Invertebrates

Prickly Sea Stars

by Natalie Lunis

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by Natalie Lunis

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Contents

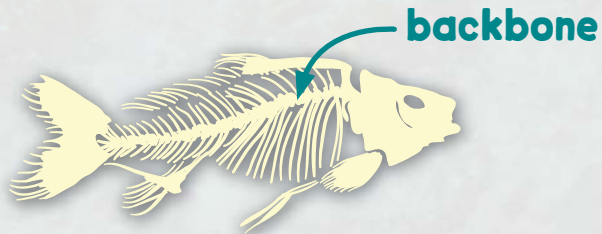
Stars of the Sea.....	4
Many Kinds, Many Colors	6
Life Without a Brain	8
Sea Food	10
Open for Dinner	12
Prickly Protection	14
Regrowing a Ray	16
More Ways to Grow.....	18
A Story of Survival	20
 A World of Invertebrates	 22
Glossary	23
Index.....	24
Read More.....	24
Learn More Online.....	24

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.

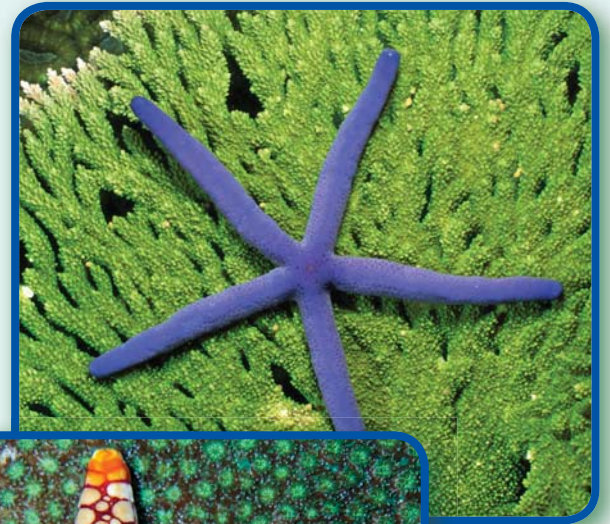
Some sea stars are as small as one inch (2.5 cm) across.

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.







Index

backbones 4, 22

brittle star 22

colors 6

eating 12

enemies 14–15, 16

eyespots 8–9

fish 4, 14, 22

food 10, 12, 14, 20

hunting 10, 14

mouths 12

rays 6, 9, 10, 16–17,
18–19

sand dollars 22

sea cucumber 22

sea urchin 22

senses 8, 10

size 6

skin 8, 14

stomachs 12–13

tube feet 10, 12



Read More

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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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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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