

Kid Scoop®

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Stars of the Sea

The ocean is full of amazing creatures, and one that is unique is the sea star or starfish. It is a sea creature, but it lives close to the shore. Sometimes they are washed up on the beach or stranded in a tide pool, giving people a chance to see this mysterious creature up close.

Seeing Stars

What is a sea star and what is it not? A starfish is not a fish at all. Many marine biologists want to change its name to a **sea star**, because most of them look like stars. Sea stars are **echinoderms** (eh-keen-oh-durmz)—animals that lack a back bone.

Sea Star's Rays

Sea stars have arms but no legs. Their arms are called **rays**. Some sea stars have five rays, some have six, ten or twenty.

Glow Time!

Sea stars have no eyes, no ears, no nose. They do have a _____ on their underside. To eat, a sea star _____ on top of, and slowly wraps its _____ around its food.

One thing sea stars like to eat is clams. Once one has wrapped its rays around a clam _____, its hundreds of tentacles _____ to the shell and hang onto it as it pulls and pulls until the shell opens. As soon as it opens just a little, the sea star _____ its stomach out of its body and into the shell and _____ the clam. This can take an hour or two.

No Bones About It

Sea stars don't have skeletons. Their spiny, tough skin gives them their shape and protects them.

Neat Feet

Sea stars have feet but no toes. If you look on the bottom of a sea star's ray, you will see rows of soft tentacles called **tube feet**. The sea star slowly creeps along on these feet.

Sea Star Search

How many sea stars can you find on this page in 30 seconds? Now have a friend try. Who found the most?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

These sea stars swiped some of the words from paragraphs at left. Write in each word where it belongs.

- crawls
- mouth
- rays
- pushes
- digests
- attach
- shell

$14 + 6 + 7$	$37 + 17 - 6$	$5 + 6 + 7$	$42 - 26$
$9 + 16 + 7$	$11 + 5 + 9$	$24 - 12$	$29 - 7$

★ Star Match

Do the math to match each sea star to its name.

- 25 = chocolate chip star
- 22 = sun star
- 48 = candy cane star
- 18 = basket star
- 27 = cushion star
- 12 = fat star
- 32 = comb sea star
- 16 = sunflower sea star

Extra! Extra!

Creature Cut-Ups

You can create a new creature from the parts of creatures pictured in today's newspaper. Cut out different parts of different people and animals found in today's newspaper. Use these to create a new creature. Give your creature a name. Make up things about it, such as what it eats and where it lives.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

A Galaxy of Sea Stars

There are more than 3,600 different kinds of sea stars. They come in lots of different colors and shapes. Some sea stars are colored to match the surfaces on which they live. This camouflage helps them hide from predators.

How many sea stars are hidden here?

Double Double Word Search

SEA STARS SKELETONS TENTACLES CREATURE PREDATORS CRAWLS RAYS SHORE TUBE CREEPS TIDE POOL ARM

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

E	T	C	S	H	O	R	E	S	P
H	I	E	S	Y	A	R	N	N	R
S	S	E	N	E	U	O	R	M	E
L	S	T	D	T	T	U	B	E	D
W	P	I	A	E	A	S	E	A	A
A	T	E	L	R	T	C	A	S	T
R	R	E	A	R	S	F	L	H	O
C	K	C	R	E	E	P	S	E	R
S	A	R	M	I	P	O	O	L	S

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