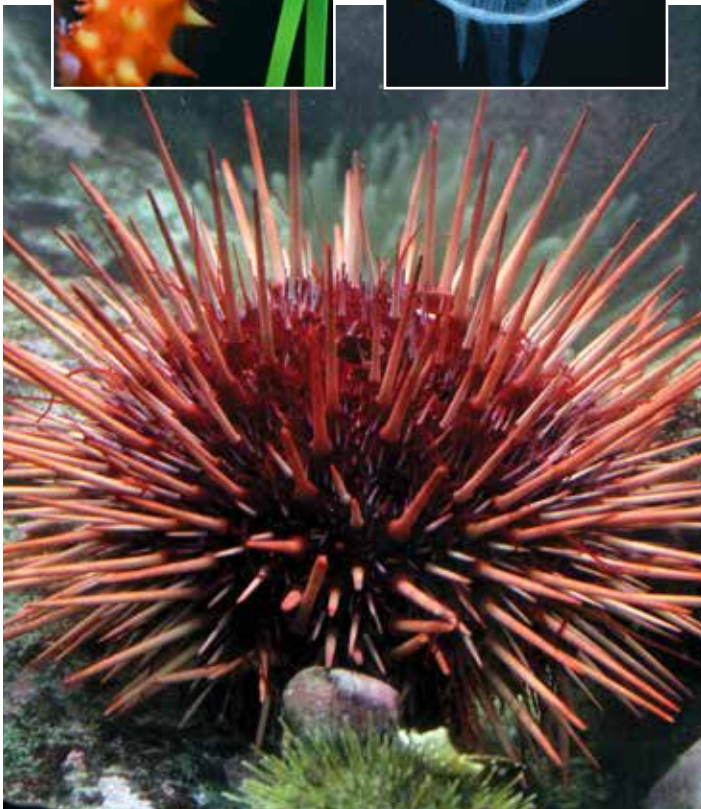
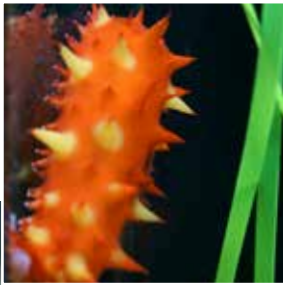


Is it or isn't it an **echinoderm**?

What are echinoderms?

They are a large group of marine (saltwater) animals that includes sea stars, sea cucumbers, sea urchins and sand dollars. The name comes from the Greek word for spiny skin, but not all echinoderms have visible spines.



Common traits of echinoderms:

Spiny skin
(not all spines are visible)

Radial symmetry (five equal parts
around a central disk)

Calcereous plates, called ossicles,
that are covered by a layer of skin

Tube feet (podia) that are used
for movement, attaching, tasting,
eating and respiration

Water vascular system
(a hydraulic system of fluid-filled
canals used to control the tube feet)

