

TIDE POOL ANIMALS

HERMIT CRABS

Hermit crabs aren't hermits—in the wild, they're often found in groups of 100 or more.

As they grow, hermit crabs must seek out larger snail shells in which to live. They may fight each other to the death in pursuit of a desirable shell.



SEA STARS

There are over 500 species of sea stars in the world, and not all of them have five arms. The sunflower star can have 24 or more!



Sea stars can regrow a lost arm as long as some part of their central disk (or the middle of their bodies) remains intact.

SEA ANEMONES

Sea anemones were named after the colorful anemone flowers that grow on land.

Some species of sea anemone can live 50 years or more!



SEA CUCUMBERS

Sea cucumbers are similar to worms—the food they eat passes through their bodies and comes out the other side to enrich the sandy bottom.

Some sea cucumbers can spew out their digestive parts, then grow them back again!



SEA URCHINS

Sea urchins are sometimes called the pincushions of the sea or sea hedgehogs because of their bristly spines.

Sea urchins are found in all the world's oceans, from the intertidal zone to depths of over 16,000 feet.

