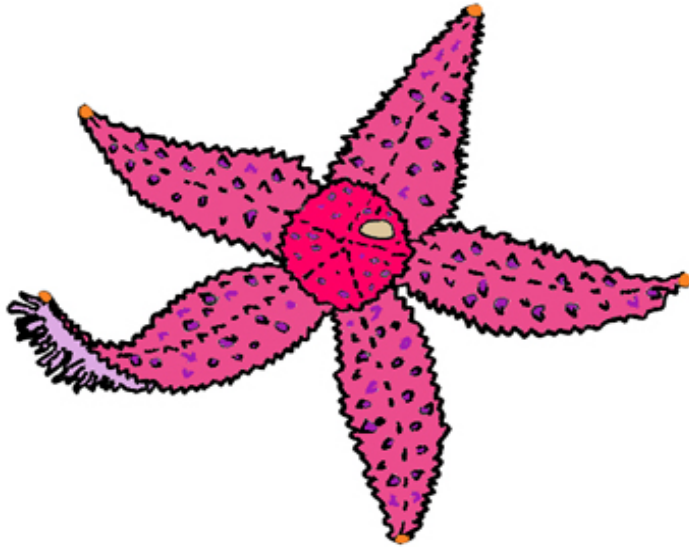


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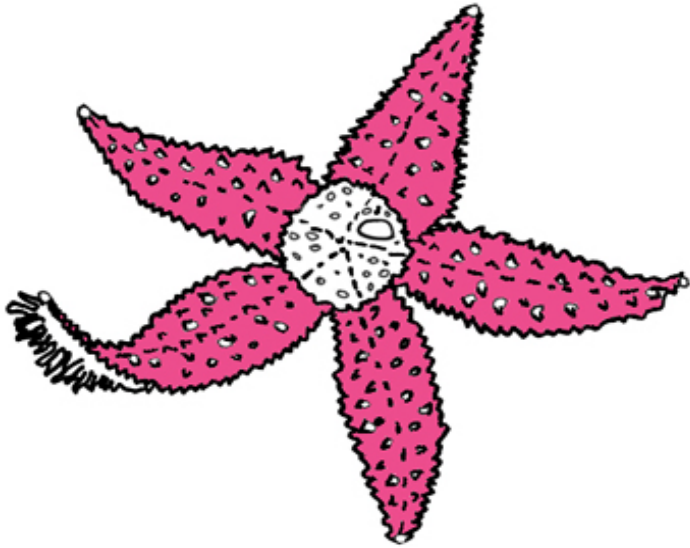
The Starfish

The Starfish



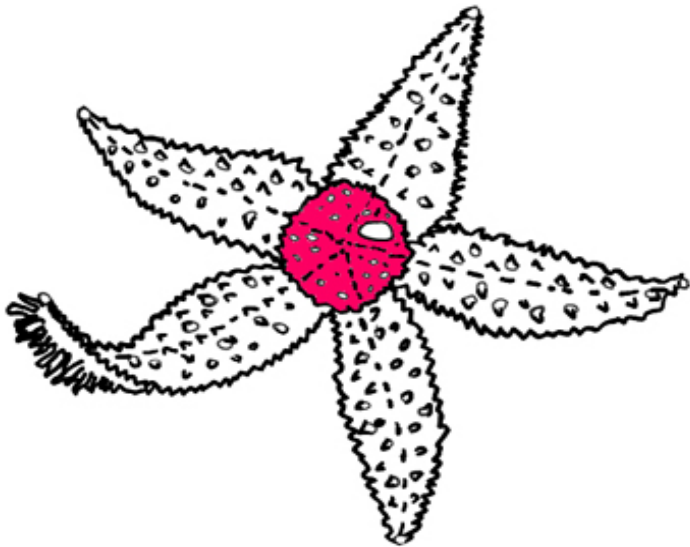
starfish (aboral view)

Starfish are echinoderms that live in all the world's oceans. They are not actually fish and are most often called 'sea stars'.



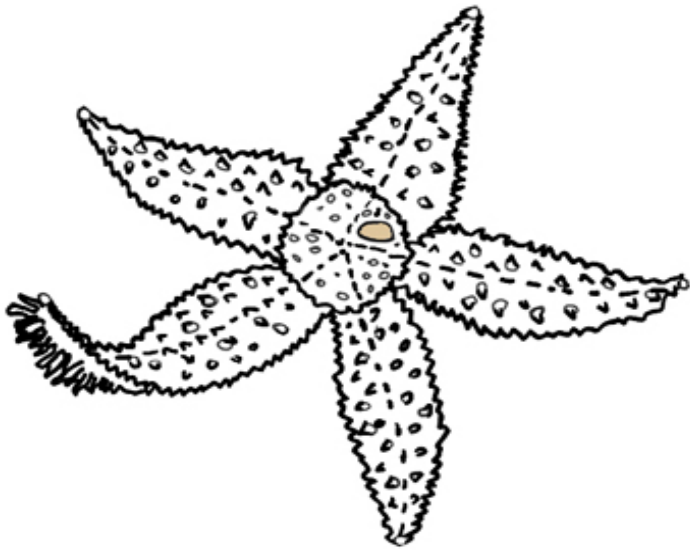
rays (aboral view)

Most starfish have 5 rays (or 'arms'). There are a few species that have 6 or more rays.



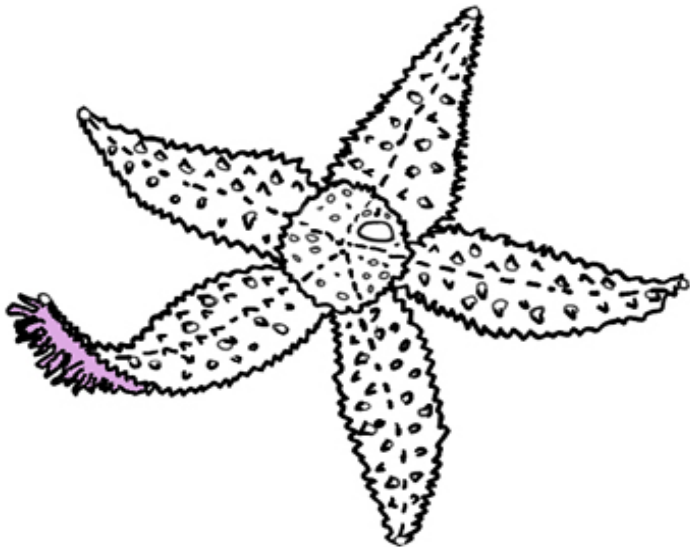
central disc (aboral view)

The rays radiate out from the central disc.
Underneath the central disc are the internal organs of the starfish.



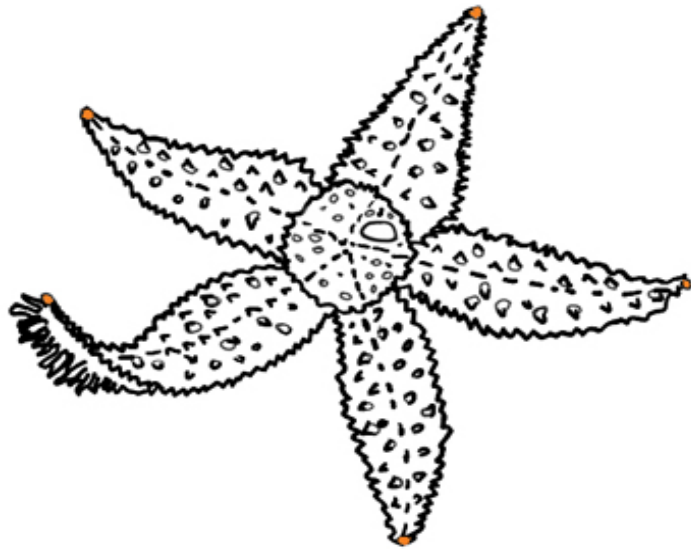
madreporite (aboral view)

The **madreporite** is an opening on the central disc. It filters water into the water vascular system which allows the starfish movement.



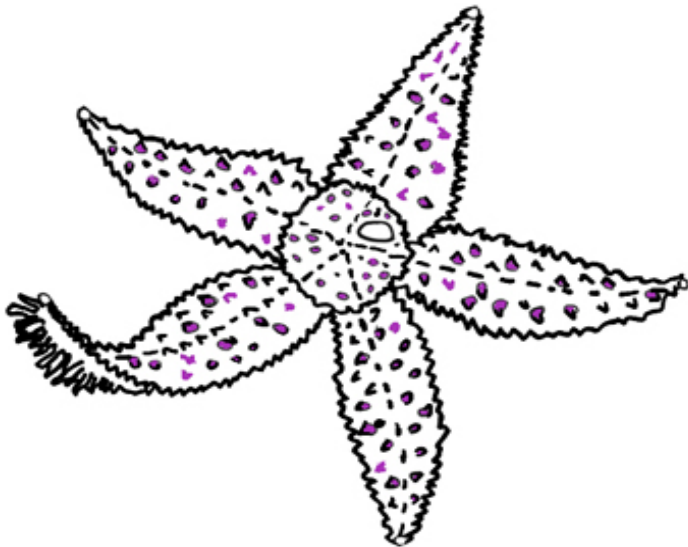
tube feet (aboral view)

The **tube feet** latch on to surfaces by suction and move the starfish slowly. They are also used to pass food into the mouth.



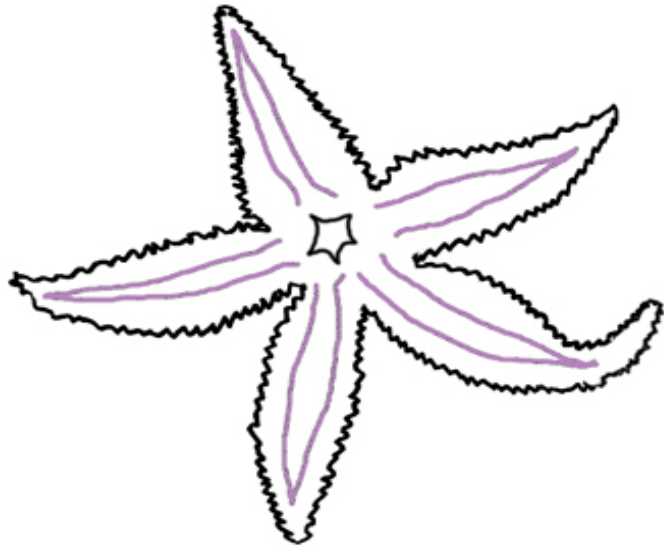
eye spots (aboral view)

A starfish has eye spots on the ends of each ray. They are simple eyes that can detect light and dark but are unable to form images.



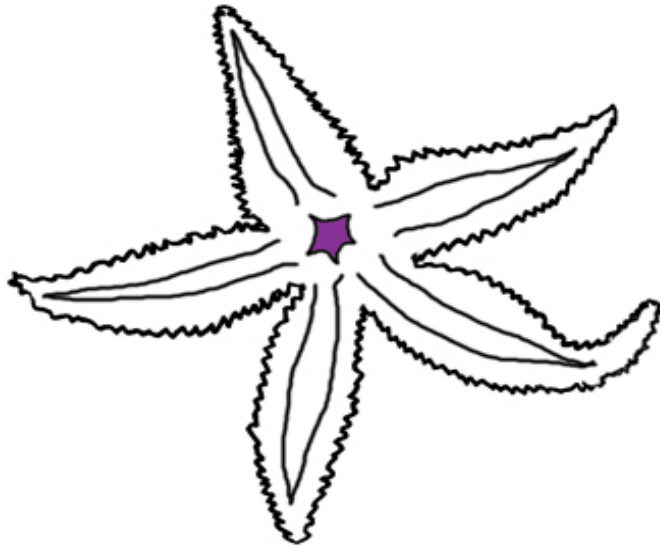
spines (aboral view)

Sharp, bony spines cover the body. They are movable, sensitive to touch, and help protect the starfish.



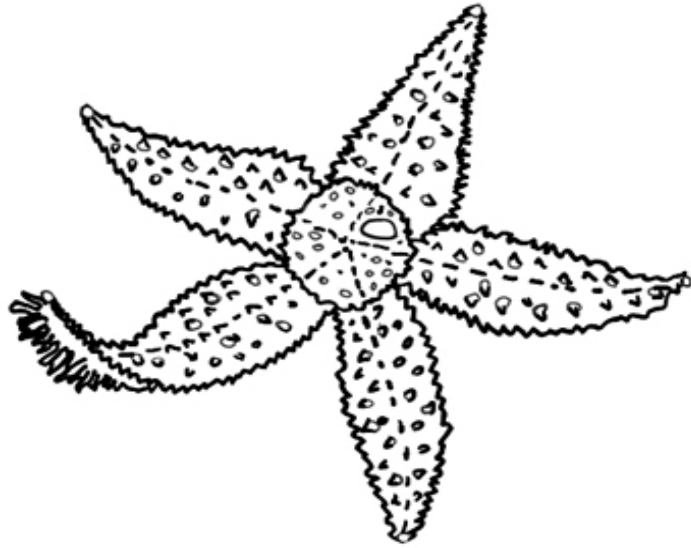
ambulacral groove (oral view)

The ambulacral grooves extend from the mouth to the top of each ray. They are deep grooves with 2-4 rows of soft tube feet.



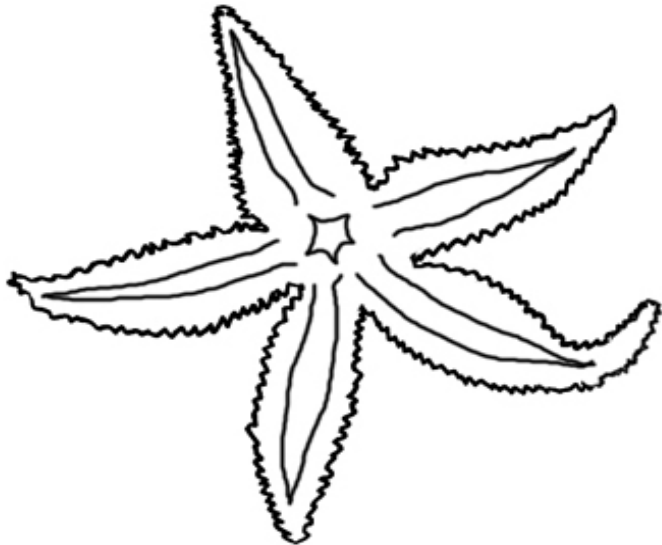
mouth (oral view)

Starfish primarily eat bivalves. They revert their stomach through their mouth, into the bivalve shell, and consume the marine animal inside.



aboral view

The **aboral** view of the starfish shows the central discs and rays. Aboral means away from the mouth.



oral view

The **oral view** of the starfish shows the mouth and the rows of tube feet in the ambulacral grooves.