

Tidepool Taxonomy

Taxonomy: the science of classifying things.



Phylum Cnidarian

Stinging Celled Animals

Cnidarians are characterized by having a sac-like body cavity with a single opening surrounded by a ring of tentacles. The ring of tentacles contains harpoon-like stinging cells called *nematocysts* that can shoot out and inject their prey with a paralyzing poison.

Other characteristics of this phylum:

Other animals in this phylum include:

Sea anemone



Shore crab



Phylum Arthropoda

Jointed Footed Animals

Arthropods all have jointed appendages and an exterior skeleton, called an *exoskeleton*. An arthropod will shed the *exoskeleton* many times throughout its life. This process is called molting.

Other characteristics of this phylum:

Other animals in this phylum include:

Phylum Echinodermata

Spiny Skinned Animals

Echinoderms have several unique characteristics such as tube feet and a *water vascular system*.

Other characteristics of this phylum:

Other animals in this phylum include:

Sea urchin



Keyhole limpet



Phylum Mollusca

Soft Bodied Animals

Molluscs are soft bodied animals with various numbers of shells. Generally, the body is soft, forming a sort of flap, called the *mantle*.

Other characteristics of this phylum:

Other animals in this phylum include: