

# 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

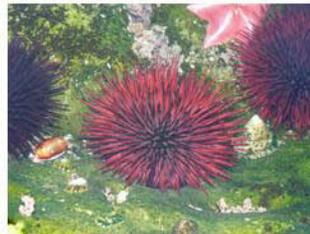
*Spiny Skinned Animals*

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:**