

# Super Starfish

## Is a Starfish a Fish?

Starfish are not fish because they do not have a backbone. They are part of a different group of animals. The octopus and the jellyfish are in this group too.



## Where Do Starfish Live?

Starfish live in the sea. They can be found all around the world. They live in coral, pools in rocks and on the sea floor.

## How Do Starfish Move?

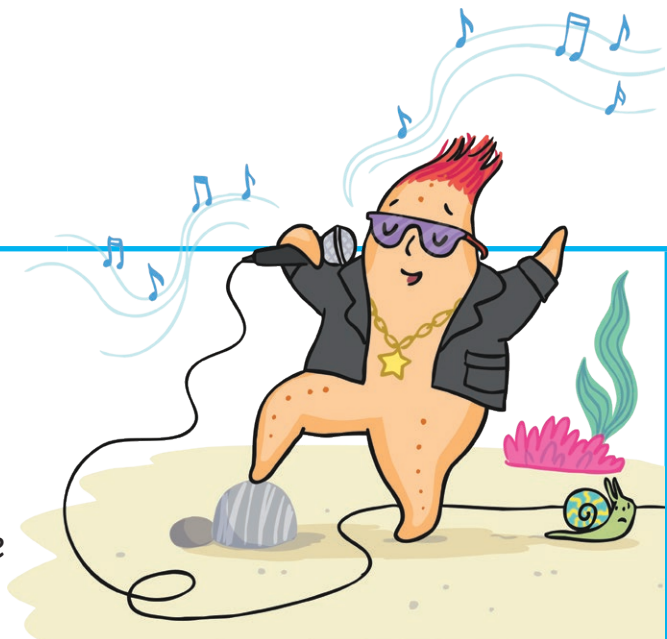
Starfish have small feet on the bottom of their arms. These are called **tube feet**. They use their tube feet to slowly crawl along the floor because starfish cannot swim!

## How Do Starfish Keep Safe?

Starfish are really good at keeping themselves safe. They have thick skin and it is very prickly. This makes them hard to eat. Some starfish can change colour so that they match what they are sitting on. This makes them hard to see.

## Fun Facts!

- Starfish do not have blood and they do not have a brain.
- They have tiny eyes on the end of their arms.



# Questions

1. Why is a starfish **not** a fish? Tick one.

- because it does not live in the water
- because it does not have a backbone
- because it does not eat

2. Where do starfish live? Tick one.

- on the land
- in the sea
- in the grass

3. How do starfish move? Tick one.

- they swim
- they hop
- they crawl

4. What is a starfish's skin like? Tick one.

- hard and slimy
- thin and sticky
- thick and prickly

5. Where are a starfish's eyes? Tick one.

- on its arms
- on its back
- on its head

# Answers

1. Why is a starfish **not** a fish? Tick one.

- because it does not live in the water
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# Super Starfish

Starfish are one of the most beautiful and interesting creatures living in the ocean. Starfish are not actually fish because they do not have a backbone. They are part of a group of creatures called **invertebrates** (say: in-ver-tih-brayts). The octopus and the jellyfish are invertebrates too.

## Where Do Starfish Live?

Starfish live in lots of different places. You can find them in coral reefs and rock pools. They can even be found on the sea floor in some of the deepest oceans in the world.



## How Do Starfish Move?

The underside of starfish are covered with hundreds of tiny feet. These are called **tube feet**. They use their tube feet to slowly crawl along the floor because starfish cannot swim! They also use their tube feet to attach tightly to rocks and to hold onto their prey.

## How Do Starfish Protect Themselves?

Starfish are really good at protecting themselves. Their skin is really thick and prickly which makes it difficult for predators to eat them. Some starfish can change their colour so that they blend into their surroundings. This makes them really tricky to spot amongst the rocks and plants on the ocean floor. This is called camouflage.

## Fascinating Facts

- Starfish do not have any blood and they do not have a brain.
- They have tiny eyes on the end of each arm which scientists think help them to stay close to home.
- They can live for up to 35 years.

# Questions

1. What type of creature is a starfish? Tick **one**.

- a fish  
 an invertebrate  
 a mammal

2. Find and copy **two** places where starfish can be found.

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3. Which **two** of these does a starfish **not** have?

- blood  
 eyes  
 brain

4. Draw a line to complete the sentences.

Starfish live in
Their skin is really
The octopus and jellyfish

are invertebrates too.
thick and prickly.
lots of different places.

5. How long can a starfish live for?

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# Answers

1. What type of creature is a starfish? Tick **one**.

- a fish  
 **an invertebrate**  
 a mammal

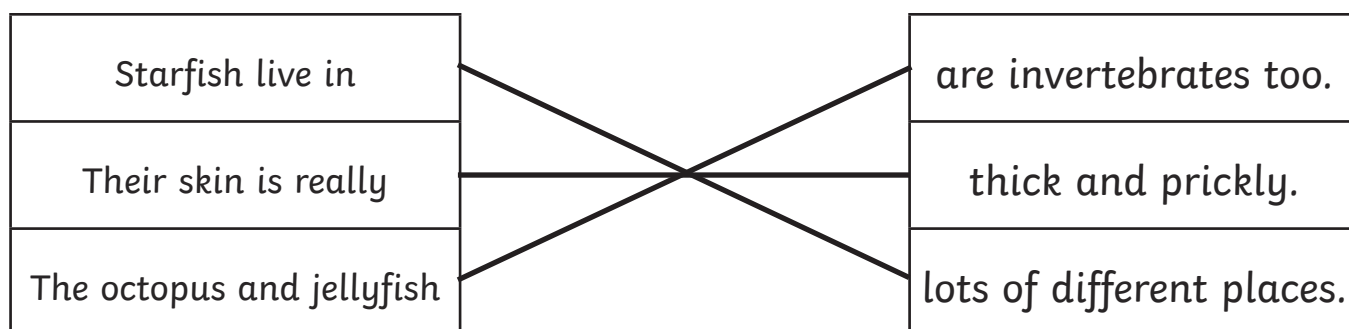
2. Find and copy **two** places where starfish can be found.

**Accept any two of the following: coral reefs, rock pools, the sea floor, the deepest oceans in the world.**

3. Which **two** of these does a starfish **not** have?

- blood**  
 eyes  
 **brain**

4. Draw a line to complete the sentences.

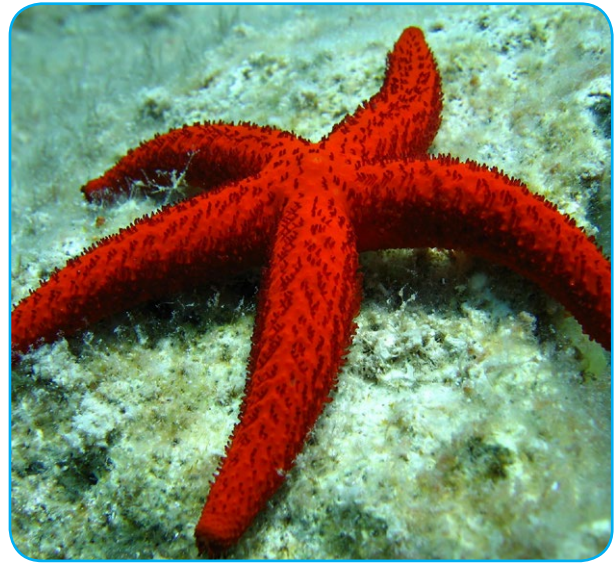


5. How long can a starfish live for?

**A starfish can live for up to 35 years.**

# Super Starfish

Starfish, also called sea stars, are not only one of the most beautiful creatures living in the ocean, they are also one of the most interesting. Despite their name, starfish are not actually fish because they do not have a backbone. Instead, they belong to a group of creatures called **invertebrates**, along with the octopus and the jellyfish.



## Starfish on the Seabed

There are around 1600 different species of starfish living in the oceans around the world. Starfish will live in almost any ocean habitat, including coral reefs, tidal pools and rocky shorelines. They can even be found on the sea floor up to 9000 metres deep! However, they will never be found in lakes or streams because they do not like freshwater.

## Stomach-Churning Snacks

A starfish's arms are covered in tiny feet called **tube feet**. They use their tube feet to crawl along the ocean floor, searching for something tasty to eat.

When they find it, starfish do something incredible. They grab onto their prey and then push their stomach out through their mouth! Their stomach wraps around their prey and begins to digest it. When it is finished, the starfish sucks its stomach back inside.



## Super Skills

Starfish are really good at defending themselves against predators. Their skin is thick, tough and prickly, which makes it difficult for predators to eat them. Some starfish can camouflage themselves. This makes them really tricky to spot amongst the rocks and plants on the ocean floor.

If a starfish is caught, they can grow back an arm that has been eaten by a predator. In fact, some types of starfish can break off one of their arms and grow it into a completely new starfish. Isn't that fascinating?





# Questions

1. There are around \_\_\_\_\_ different species of starfish. Tick one.

9000

35

1600

2. What is the name for a type of creature which does not have a backbone?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Find **one** word in the text which means the same as **move**.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Name two ways that starfish are good at defending themselves.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Draw a line to match these facts to the correct starfish body part.

Stomach
Arm
Backbone

It is covered in tiny tube feet.
It can come out through their mouth.
It does not exist.

# Answers

1. There are around \_\_\_\_\_ different species of starfish. Tick one.

9000

35

1600

2. What is the name for a type of creature which does not have a backbone?

**An invertebrate.**

3. Find **one** word in the text which means the same as **move**.

**crawl**

4. Name two ways that starfish are good at defending themselves.

**Accept any two of the following: their skin is thick, tough and prickly, some starfish can camouflage, they can grow back an arm that has been eaten.**

5. Draw a line to match these facts to the correct starfish body part.

