



Sea Star Facts

Introduction

In the introduction to *In One Tidepool: Crabs, Snails, and Salty Tails* by Anthony Fredericks, children read a letter from their five-armed buddy, Sea Star. In this activity, students will discover fantastic facts about the sea star - from number of legs, to how tube feet work, and that a sea star eats by inserting its stomach inside the victim and digests it inside its own shell. Yuck!

Materials Needed

- ◆ Cardboard
- ◆ Pens or Paint
- ◆ Construction Paper

Key Concepts

- ◆ Each organism has different structures for different functions.
- ◆ Plants and animals have life cycles.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Draw and cut out an oversized outline of a sea star body from stiff cardboard.
2. Invite students to illustrate the sea star in accordance with the illustrations from *In One Tidepool*, other informational books in the library or on the Internet.
3. Encourage students to record information on sea stars that can be written inside the sea star outline.
4. Hang the cardboard sea stars from the ceiling with paperclips or tape to create an underwater theme.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Replicate the activity above using cardboard outlines of the other creatures profiled in the tidepool. What are some amazing facts students can locate for each animal - facts that can be listed on each illustrative outline?
- ◆ Provide students with some modeling clay (available at any hobby store). Work with them to make small models of each of the animals mentioned in the book.

Additional Resources

Visit these aquarium websites to find more ocean activities to share with children!

- ◆ **Monterey Bay Aquarium**
www.montereybayaquarium.org
- ◆ **The Florida Aquarium**
www.flaquarium.org
- ◆ **Aquarium of the Pacific**
www.aquariumofpacific.org
- ◆ **John G. Shedd Aquarium**
www.sheddaquarium.org

