

Echinoderms!

Do you have a favorite animal?

What do you know about this animal?

When people started studying living things, they realized that they needed to come up with a way to organize all of them, because there are so many of them on Earth! There are five different kingdoms to classify life on Earth, based on main similarities:



**Animals,
Plants,
Fungi,
Bacteria,
and Protists.**



The animal kingdom is divided into 40 smaller groups, known as phylum. Animals usually fall into one of five different phylum which are **Cnidaria** (invertebrates: no backbone), **Chordata**

(vertebrates: backbone), **Arthropods** (have exoskeletons: skeleton outside their body), **Mollusks** (soft, unsegmented bodies), and **Echinoderms** (ocean invertebrates).



Echinoderms are spiny-skinned invertebrates with an endoskeleton of plates and spines that are found on the ocean floor. Echinoderms are slow-moving creatures that have a water-vascular system that pumps wa-ter through the

body. Echinoderms also have small jaws and tube feet which they use to attach to objects for protection, as well as to get food. Most echinoderms can regenerate lost limbs!

Make an Echinoderm!

- Lay out some old newspaper or a large paper bag to cover your work area.
- Cut out a sea star shape from a piece of any kind of paper.
- Wrap a piece of bubble wrap around a toilet paper core— with the bumpy side out— and secure it in place with tape.
- Put some washable paint on a paper plate.
- Dip your bubble roll into the paint, then roll it on your star shape.

Now you have a spiny-skinned echinoderm!



<http://www.ncimeforflashcards.com/2011/08/bubble-wrap-starfish-craft.html>

Activity Provided By The Grand Rapids Children's Museum