



ECHINODERMS:

SPINY-SKINNED CREATURES FROM THE OCEAN

With *echino* meaning spiny and *derm* meaning skin, 'echinoderms' have to be spiny-skinned animals. All members of this group have a skeleton consisting of hard plates under the skin, giving them a spiny texture. They have water-filled 'tube feet' that may be used for movement, respiration and collecting food. Echinoderms are also 'radially symmetrical' – their body can be divided into radial parts, like rays extending out from the centre.

Echinoderms are very common – if you go snorkelling, diving or even for a walk along the beach, you are likely to see an example of an echinoderm... or the remains of one!

Echinoderms are divided into five groups (or classes):

Asteroidea (meaning star-like)

– sea stars;

Echinoidea (meaning spine-like)

– sea urchins;

Ophiuroidea (meaning snake-like)

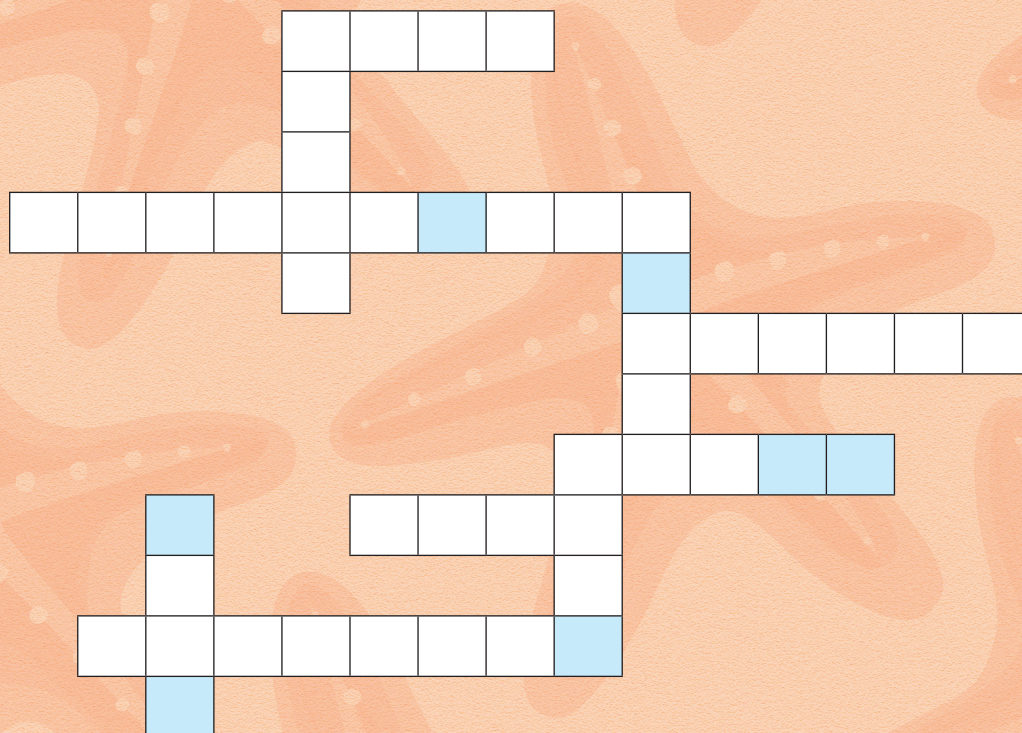
– brittle stars;

Crinoidea (meaning lily-like)

– feather stars; and

Holothuroidea – sea cucumbers.

Complete the word-fill below using these ten (10) words:



10 letters

Echinoderm

8 letters

Cucumber

6 letters

Urchin

5 letters

Mouth

Shell

Spiny

4 letters

Anus

Feet

Skin

Star

Rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to find the missing word.

The group Echinoidea includes sea urchins, heart urchins and sand _____.