

Green sea urchin (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*)

Habitat: Mid to low tide zone

Movement: Sea urchins use their tube feet to move slowly across rocks, seaweed and sandy bottoms. They also use their tube feet to hold on to hard surfaces and to grab their food.

Protection: Their body is covered with toothpick-like spines. They are also well camouflaged.

Predators: Humans, gulls, sea otters, crabs, sea stars and various fishes including wolf-eels.

Diet: They will use their five teeth to scrape algae off of rocks and to nibble away at seaweed. They will also occasionally scavenge for detritus (dead algae and animals).

Other facts:

- Urchins are echinoderms (ee-kie-noe-derms) which means that they belong to the invertebrate group Echinodermata. This phylum group includes sea stars, sand dollars, sea cucumbers and sea urchins.
- Sea urchins can breathe and even smell with their tube feet!
- The green sea urchin can be found in the Pacific Ocean from Arctic regions to the south Puget Sound, as well as in the Atlantic Ocean as far south as New Jersey.