

# Marine Scavenger Hunt

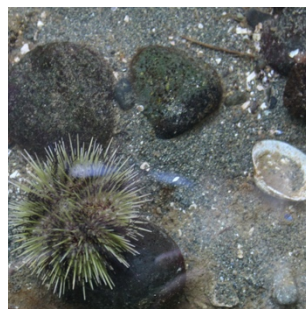
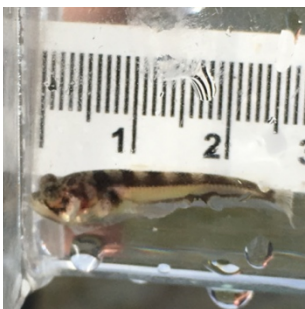


United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**MOUNT  
ARROWSMITH**  
BIOSPHERE REGION

This activity is to see how many local marine species you can find! Look around on a nearby beach, or on your next trip to the ocean. Use the descriptions as clues while you hunt for each critter! Find something not on this list? Draw it at the end to identify later.





## Seashore Plants



### Rockweed • *Fucus distichus*

**Description:** This seaweed has an olive-brown thallus (plant body). On mature rockweed, the terminal (end) branches swell to form forked air bladders that have a bumpy, warty texture.

**Fun Fact:** Rockweed is edible! Particularly the young tips in the spring, when they are bright yellow. They can be chopped, dried, and powdered to add to teas.



### Eelgrass • *Zostera marina*

**Description:** Eelgrass has flattened stems with alternating green blades. The blades have rounded tips, and are marked by longitudinal veins.

**Fun Fact:** Eelgrass has many traditional uses from around the world, including being used for basket and blanket weaving, thatching for roofs, insulation, paper fibre, and food!



### Sea Lettuce • *Ulva lactuca*

**Description:** It looks like bright green seaweed, but can be white or black when dried. It has ruffle-edged leaves that are coarse and sheet-like and resemble a leaf of lettuce. Leaves may appear flat, thin, broad, and often rounded or oval.

**Fun Fact:** Sea lettuce thrives in areas where nutrient levels are high, like sewage outfalls or run-off from nearby agricultural areas.

## Sea Stars, Anemones & Allies



### Ochre Sea Star • *Pisaster ochraceus*

**Description:** These sea stars are relatively large, with five arms and a rough surface. Most are either orange or purple in colour.

**Fun Fact:** These critters are a "keystone species", as its presence or absence significantly affects the entire community in the intertidal zone.



### Sand Dollar • *Clypeaster subdepressus*

**Description:** Very short spines cover the body, giving it almost a velvety appearance. A five-pointed star pattern is visible on the back. Live sand dollars are dark grey, brown, or purplish-black in colour, and the shells are white or light grey in colour. You are most likely to find them on a sandy beach!

**Fun Fact:** Sand dollars live for 6-8 years; the age of an individual can be determined by counting the growth rings on its shell.



### Purple Sea Urchin • *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*

**Description:** Adult purple sea urchins are an obvious purple colour, but juveniles can have light green spines or spines in transition from green to purple.

**Fun Fact:** Purple urchins graze heavily on algae, particularly kelp beds, and as a result can greatly impact habitat structure.

## Molluscs



### Rough Keyhole Limpet • *Diodora aspera*

**Description:** Its shell has a rough texture and a circular opening at the top. The shell has a pattern of purplish-brown radial stripes.

**Fun Fact:** The rough keyhole limpet often hosts the symbiotic scale worm. The worm lives in the limpet's mantle groove and occasionally sticks its head out to bite at the tube feet of sea stars that prey on the limpet.



### Black Turban Snail • *Tegula funebris*

**Description:** Its shell is thick and dark purple to black. On the bottom side of the shell it is pearly white. The shell is about as tall as it is wide, and the body is whorled with weak spiral patterns.

**Fun Fact:** Once the snail's body has perished, their unoccupied shells are a favourite of hermit crabs to live in.



### Pacific Blue Mussel • *Mytilus edulis*

**Description:** Blue mussels have a blue black to brown outside, with a shiny violet interior. They can grow up to 4 inches long, 2 inches wide, and are shaped like a rounded triangle.

**Fun Fact:** These mussels can withstand great temperature extremes, including freezing, excessive heat, and drought.



### **Nuttall's Cockle • *Clinocardium nuttallii***

**Description:** The shell is usually light tan, mottled with various bands or blotches of brown. The cockle's profile from the side is heart-shaped. Note: these are often buried under the sand close to the surface.

**Fun Fact:** They can pump 2.51 liters of water per hour per gram of body weight.



### **Pacific Oyster • *Crassostrea gigas***

**Description:** Can be brown, green, or grey. The shells are rough and have a sculptured appearance. You will usually find them attached to hard surfaces in shallow water.

**Fun Fact:** Pacific oysters grow quickly and reproduce rapidly. They first mature and reproduce as males, and then later develop into females.

## **Crustaceans**



### **Purple Shore Crab • *Hemigrapsus nudus***

**Description:** Their shells are usually a deep purple, although they can range from green to brown in colour. The claws are the same colour as the shell, with raised, darker purple spots and white tips. These crabs grow very slowly, and reach an adult size of 5 centimeters in three years.

**Fun Fact:** Shore crabs are not always easy to catch, but be careful if you do catch one - they can pinch!



### Acorn Barnacle • *Balanomorpha*

**Description:** Usually grey-white in colour, with a kite-shaped opening and six shell plates. They are found attached to hard substrates like rocks, old boats, etc.

**Fun Fact:** Their body is contained in the shell you see on the rocks, positioned upside down with their legs at the top. When the tide comes in, they open the plates of the shell and stick their legs out, using them to catch plankton and other detritus out of the water.

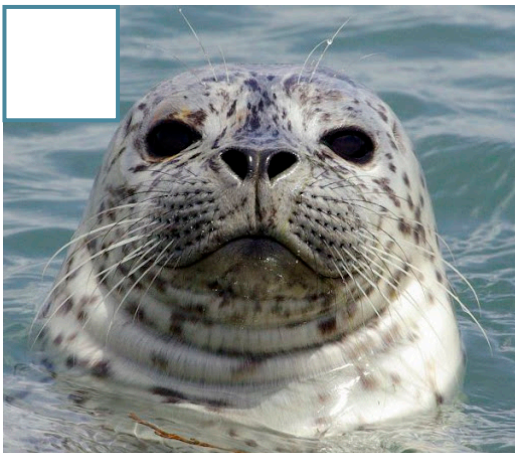
## Marine Mammals



### Steller Sea Lion • *Eumetopias jubatus*

**Description:** Steller sea lions are sometimes confused with California sea lions, but Steller sea lions are much larger and lighter in colour. They are light tan to reddish brown, and have a blunt face and boxy, bear-like head.

**Fun Fact:** Males can grow to 11 feet in length, and weigh almost 2,500 pounds! Females are much smaller and may grow to 9 feet in length and weigh 1,000 pounds.

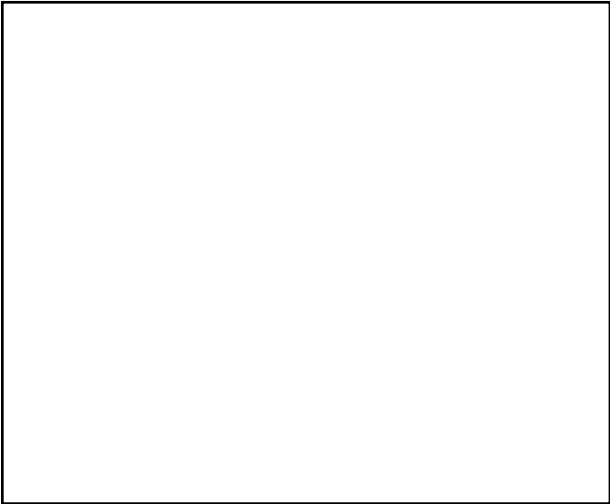

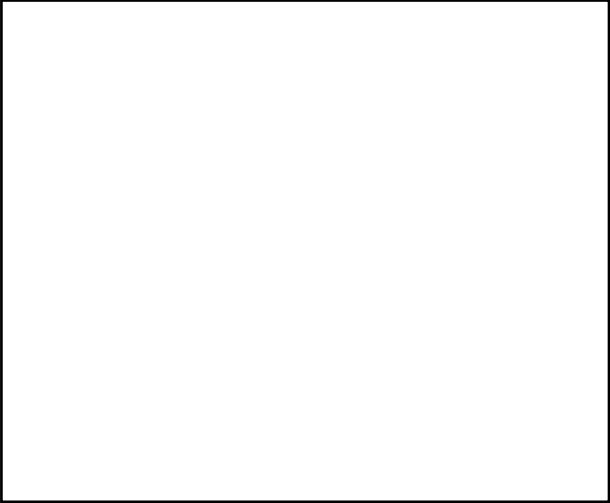


### Harbour Seal • *Phoca vitulina*

**Description:** They have short flippers, and dog-like snouts. There are two basic colour patterns: light tan, silver, or blue-grey with dark speckling or spots, or a dark background with light rings.

**Fun Fact:** Harbor seals can sleep underwater and come up for air once every 30 minutes.

## Other Critters

	<b>Name of Critter:</b>
	<b>Description:</b>
Sketch or draw the organism in the box	
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	<b>Description:</b>
Sketch or draw the organism in the box	

*Send us feedback on how this activity went and we'll enter you into our weekly draw!*

Show us your results! Snap a picture and share it with us on social media, or email it to the MABR Coordinator, at [mandy.hobkirk@viu.ca](mailto:mandy.hobkirk@viu.ca)



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