



SAND DOLLARS

By: Scott Gollner

COMMON NAMES

sand dollar derives from the appearance of dead individuals after being washed ashore.

Other English names for the creatures include and .

In South Africa, they are known as .

In Spanish-speaking areas of the Americas, the sand dollar is most often known as



SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION OF SAND DOLLARS

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Echinodermata

Class: Echinoidea

Subclass: Euechinoidea

Superorder: Gnathostomata

Order: Clypeasteroidea



SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SAND DOLLARS

Size - About 3 inches across

Habitat- Normally sandy seafloor

Diet- crustacean larvae, small copepods, detritus, diatoms, algae.

Relatives- sea urchins, sea stars, sea cucumbers

Location- low intertidal to about 130 feet from Alaska to Baja California



ANATOMY OF A SAND DOLLAR

Sand dollars possess a rigid skeleton known as a

Test- the hard shell of some spherical

are commonly found with their empty test devoid of all surface material and bleached white by sunlight.

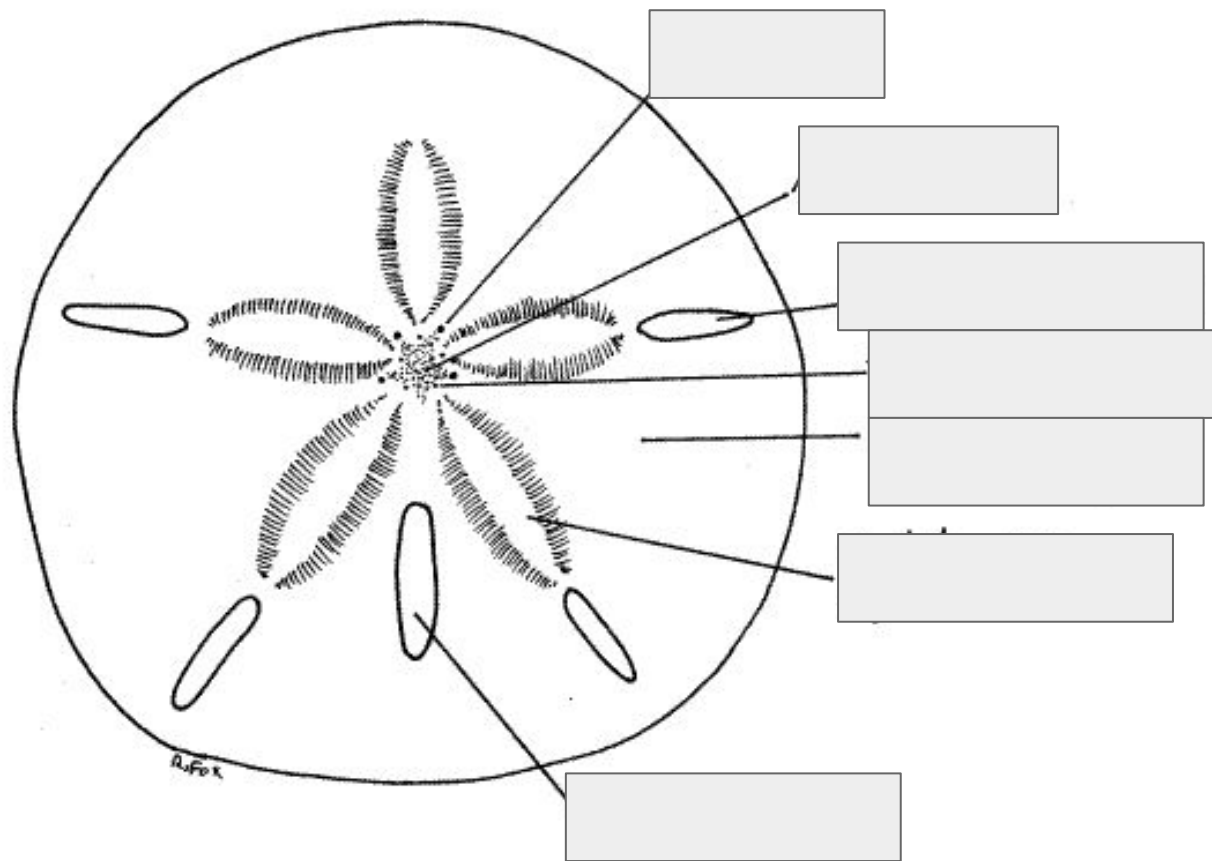


LIFESTYLE AND HABITAT

Sand dollars live beyond the mean on top of or just beneath the surface of sandy or muddy areas.

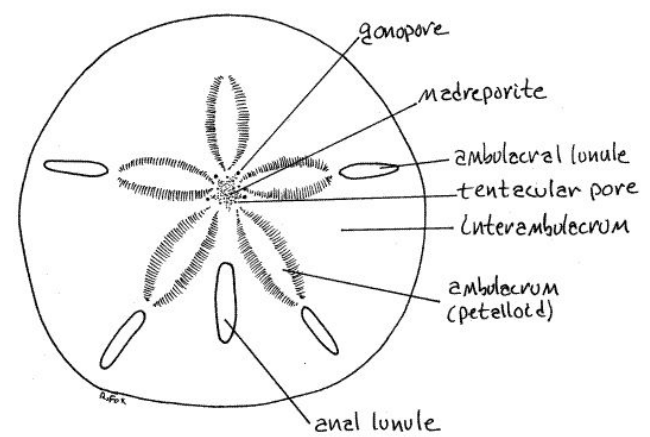
The spines allow it to or to slowly creep through the sediment.

Move food to the which is in the center of the star-shaped grooves on the underside of the animal.



SOME DEFINITIONS OF SAND DOLLAR PARTS

Madreporite - Is an essential rculation system



- one of the radial areas in an echinoderm bearing the tube feet by which the creature moves.

Gonopore- Sometimes call dopore, is a genital pore in many invertebrates.

Lunules - haped or oval part or marking.

Cool Facts

As many as 625 sand dollars can live in one square yard.

When waters are rough, sand dollars hold their ground by lying flat or burrowing under.

Adults also fight the currents by growing heavier skeletons.

Young sand dollars swallow heavy sand grains to weigh themselves down.



MORE INTERESTING COOL FACTS

The sand dollar's mouth has a jaw with five teeth like sections to grind up tiny plants and animals

“Chews” its food for fifteen minutes before swallowing. It can take two days for the food to digest.

Sand dollars usually live six to 10 years.

