

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Dog Whelk

Nucella lapillus

The Dog Whelk is a marine gastropod mollusk commonly found along rocky shores in the North Atlantic. It boasts a sturdy, spiral shell that varies in color from white and grey to brown and purple, and...

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate

Family: Muricidae

Habitat: Rocky intertidal zones

Diet: Carnivore

Conservation status: Least Concern

Lifespan: 5-10 years

Weight: 4-10 grams

Scientific name: *Nucella lapillus*

Did you know?

- Dog Whelks were historically harvested for their purple dye, valued in ancient times and used to color royal garments.
- Dog Whelks produce a powerful acid and a special enzyme to bore through the shells of their prey. Unlike many snails, they are highly tolerant of str...

What I learned
