CREATURE ATLAS

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

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