CREATURE ATLAS

# Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



# Purple Sea Urchin

*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*

Strongylocentrotus purpuratus is the animal at the centre of one of the most consequential ecological collapses on the west coast of North America. When sea star wasting disease annihilated the sunfl…

## Quick facts

**Classification:** Invertebrate
**Family:** Strongylocentrotidae
**Habitat:** Rocky coastal shores and kelp forests
**Diet:** Herbivore
**Conservation status:** Least Concern
**Lifespan:** 20-70 years
**Weight:** 50-100 grams
**Scientific name:** Strongylocentrotus purpuratus

## Did you know?

- Despite their small size, Purple Sea Urchins can have a massive impact on their ecosystem, sometimes transforming lush kelp forests into barren seasc…
- Sea urchins have no eyes but appear to see with their whole body — the tube feet carry light-sensitive proteins and the spines shade them, so the ani…

## What I learned

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