CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Sand Dollar

Dendraster excentricus

The sand dollar is a flattened, burrowing sea urchin found along sandy ocean floors, most commonly in shallow coastal waters. Its rigid, disc-shaped skeleton is covered with tiny spines that help it …

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Dendrasteridae
Habitat: Sandy ocean floors, shallow coastal waters
Diet: Detritivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 6-10 years
Weight: 10-50 grams
Scientific name: Dendraster excentricus

Did you know?

- A living sand dollar appears dark and fuzzy due to its tiny, moving spines, but it's only after death that its skeleton turns white and smooth.
- Sand dollars are closely related to sea urchins and starfish. When alive, they are covered in velvety, purple-brown spines that help them move and fe…

What I learned

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