

Purple Sea Urchin



INVERTEBRATE

Strongylocentrotus purpuratus

diet: brown and green algae

size: about 7cm (3 inches) across

Habitat: Rocky Shores - at Haystack Rock can be found (rarely) around the Needles during extreme low tides.

Related to: Sand Dollars, Sea Stars and Sea Cucumbers

Spiky, purple spines surround a hard test (shell). Test is covered by pedicellariae (pincers) similar, tube feet and spines that they use for protection.

Fun Fact: they breathe through their tube feet!