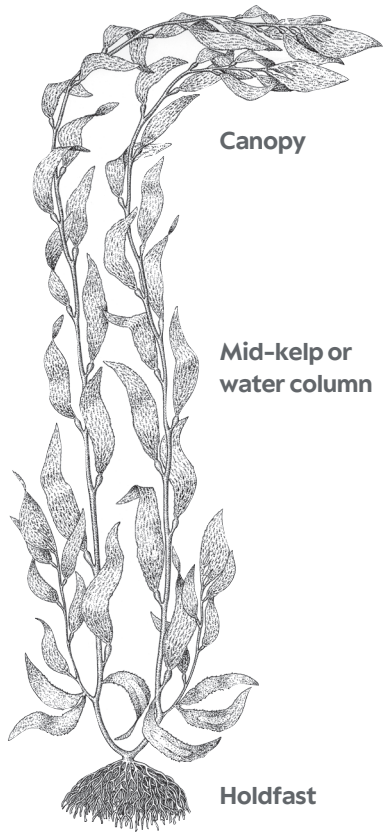


Kelp Forest

Kelp forest animals live in a vertical habitat. The kelp uses its holdfast to hold onto a rock on the seafloor. It grows upward through the water until it reaches the surface.



For each zone (canopy, mid-kelp and holdfast) sketch an animal you see living there.

What do you see the animals in the water column doing?

Are the animals living near the holdfast behaving the same way as the animals in the water column? Why or why not?

Self-Guided Observation Guide

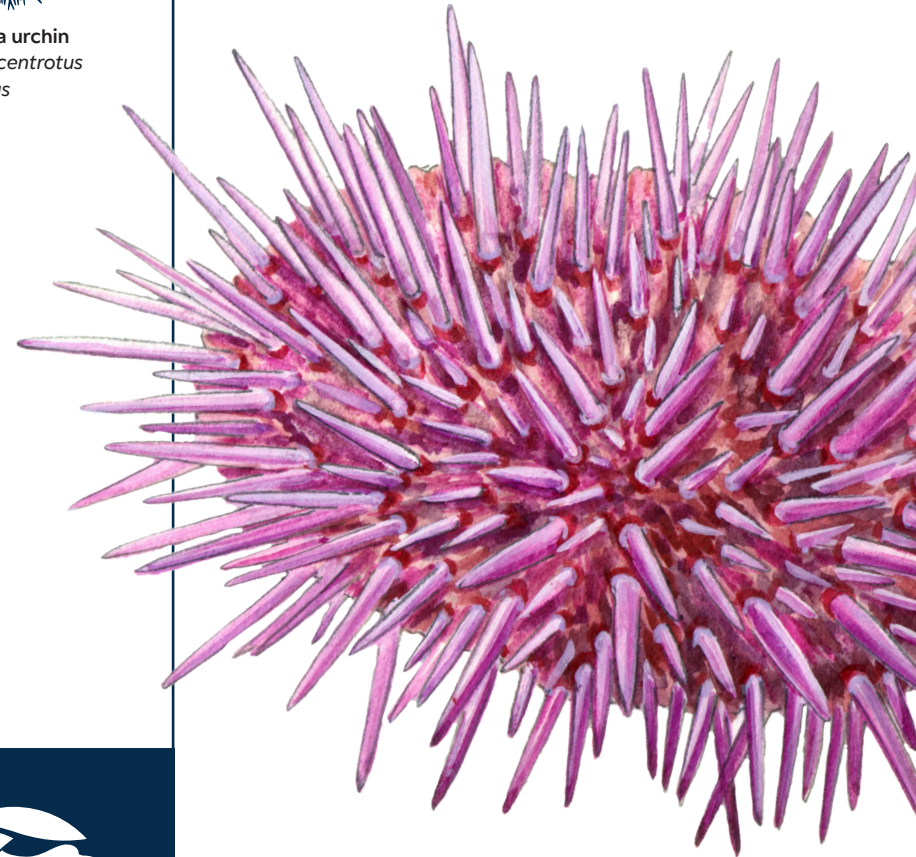
GRADES 6-8



Purple sea urchin
Strongylocentrotus purpuratus

In the "Zone"

NAME(S):



Marine animals and algae are distributed into "zones" or regions of an ecosystem. The zones are created by physical and biological factors such as tides, availability of food and predators.



Monterey Bay Aquarium

Rocky Shore

The rocky intertidal ecosystem is made up of distinct zones. Organisms living there have structures (external body parts) that help them to survive challenges like waves, predators and drying out at low tide.



Explore the exhibits in the Rocky Shore. Stand under the crashing wave. Walk outside to the Wave Crash exhibit and find the animals that live in different zones.

Name an animal you see living in the high tide zone (a zone most often exposed to air)

1. Animal's name:
2. Challenge this animal faces:
3. List one external structure (body part) or behavior that helps this animal to survive the challenge:

Name an animal you see living in the low tide zone (a zone most often covered by water)

1. Animal's name:
2. Challenge this animal faces:
3. List one external structure (body part) that helps this animal to survive the challenge:

Wharf Pilings

Marine organisms compete for space in their ocean homes. They use all available space, even human made structures!



Some of the animals that make their homes in the kelp forest or rocky shore may be found on wharf pilings (wooden columns holding up a wharf).

Look closely. Do you see more animals or algae (seaweeds) living on the wharf pilings in the exhibit?

Hint: Is there much sunlight under a wharf?

What is the most abundant animal on the pilings?

Wharf pilings and other human made structures, like sunken ships and jetties, may provide artificial homes for ocean animals. However, they aren't a natural part of the environment.



In your opinion, should human made structures be allowed to remain in the ocean? Why or why not?