

Name: _____

Date: _____

Starfish

Nonfiction; Word Count: 325

Lesson 69: Murmur

Diphthong AR

Chapter 5

Skill Words

starfish	argue	stars	remarkable	sparkling
charted	far	part	harm	hard
sharp	harsh	arms	march	marvel
dark	target	dollars	mark	sharks
sharpen	scholarship	largest	apart	large
party	regard	charming	safeguard	

Challenge Words

scientists	pools	shores	coral	colors	armor
regrow	carnivore	prey	stomach	body	

Starfish may have the word fish in their name, but they are not fish since they do not have gills or fins. Scientists argue that they should be called sea stars. Sea stars do not have a brain, bones, or teeth. Sea stars live in remarkable places like sparkling tide pools, rocky shores, and coral reefs. Some sea stars have been charted as far down as 20,530 feet. They can even stay part of the time out of the water without harm.

Sea stars come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. Sea stars have spiny, hard armor on the outside, but it is not sharp or harsh. The small spikes will not harm you. Most sea stars have five arms, but some sea stars have more. Sea stars can have as many as 40 arms. Their arms have hundreds of tube feet to help them slowly march along. Sea stars can regrow a lost arm. Some sea stars will even shed an arm to escape a carnivore. It is a marvel to be able to have a new arm! They also have eyespots on the tips of their arms that they use to sense light and dark and help target things to eat.

Sea stars will eat clams, mussels, and sand dollars. They use their tube feet to help them hold on to their mark (or prey). Sea stars have a two-part stomach that they push outside their body to digest their meals. Sharks, crabs, rays, and seagulls will eat sea stars.

Sharpen your sea star scholarship with a few more fun facts: Pink starfish are one of the largest starfish. One of the smallest sea stars is the paddle-spined sea star. For the most part, sea stars like to live apart. Sometimes you will find them in a large party while they feed. Many people regard sea stars as a charming part of sea life and argue that we need to safeguard them.

Comprehension Questions

1. This story is about
 - a. sea stars.
 - b. all kinds of sea life.
 - c. saving the ocean.

2. How many arms can a sea star have?
 - a. 100
 - b. 24
 - c. 40

3. To *harm* means to
 - a. help.
 - b. hurt.
 - c. hurry.

4. The passage ends by stating, "Many people regard sea stars as a charming part of sea life and argue that we need to safeguard them." From this sentence, you can infer that
 - a. there are people who do not think sea stars are important and hurt them.
 - b. not everyone thinks sea stars are beautiful.
 - c. some people do not know anything about sea stars.