

Short Spined Sea Urchin



GROUP/PHYLUM: Echinoderm

COLOUR: Black – Brown – Orange – Green – Red - Purple

MOVEMENT: Spines move in any direction - thousands of tube feet – if turned upside down they will turn themselves the right way up again.

TEXTURE/SHAPE The hard-outer shell is called a 'test' which is covered in spines - length among urchins ranges from 1-20cm

HOW IT EATS: Moves over food – has mouth underneath with 5 large stabbing teeth - stabs at food making it into a pulp which it sucks up

WHAT IT EATS: Dead fish – algae - sponges

DEFENCE: Spines to protect it, can wedge amongst rocks so fish can't eat them & used for walking. Some have venomous spines!

JOB: Cleaning ocean floor