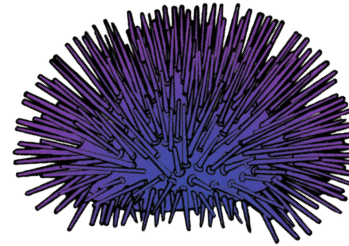


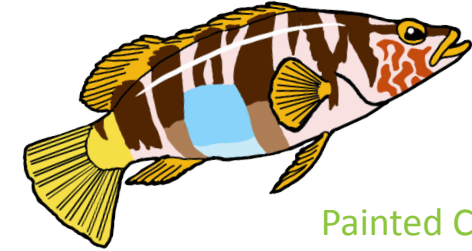
Shore Life Fun Facts

There is so much to know about
our friends who live in the sea



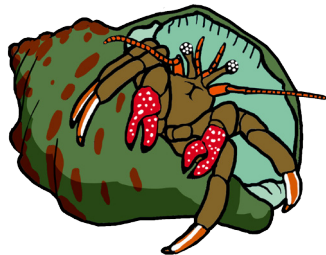
Sea Urchin
Rizza

- Sea urchins live in holes among rocks • Their spines keep them safe from predators • Sea urchins also have hundreds of soft thin tentacles among the spines • They use these tentacles as legs to walk about on the rocks! • Sea urchins eat seaweed mostly • The sea urchin's mouth is on the underside •



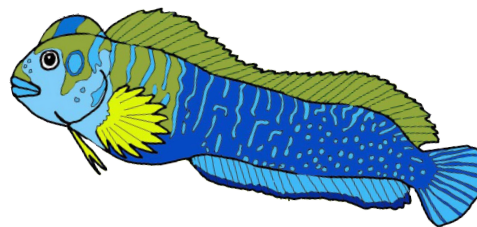
Painted Comber
Burqax

- The Painted Comber likes to live alone • It swims among rocks on the sea bottom • It hunts small fish, crabs and shrimps • It has a bright blue spot and a stripey pattern • The colours and the pattern tell other Painted Combers to stay away • This fish likes to stay near octopuses to eat bits of food that the octopuses drop •



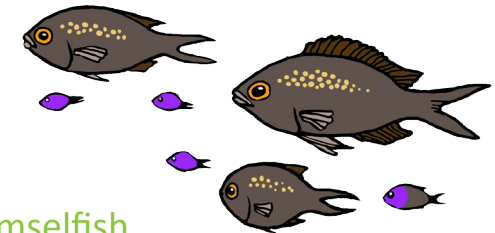
Hermit Crab
Granċ
tal-Bebbuxu

- Hermit crabs live in empty snail shells, so be careful when you pick shells on the beach • When crawling about, a hermit crab only pokes out its face and its legs • The rest of the body is soft and stays safe in the shell • It eats seaweed and bits of dead fish • When the hermit crab grows too big, it moves into a bigger shell! •



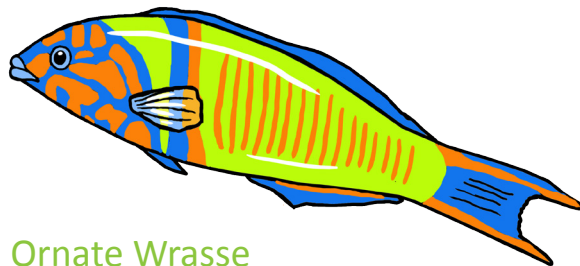
Blenny
Budakkra

- Blennies are small fish and there are many kinds • Many blennies live in shallow water • They hide in little holes in the rocks to be safe from predators • In rough water the blennies grab the rocks with their front fins • They eat tiny animals and seaweed • If you are gentle some blennies will check out your finger! •



Damselfish
Ċawla

- The Damselfish is common around our shores • It's small and dark brown, and it has a forked tail • It likes to stay in big groups • They swim about slowly in shallow water or just 'hang' there • Damselfish eat tiny animals and plants called plankton • Baby damselfish are bright purple-blue • In Maltese, ċawla is also a black bird! •

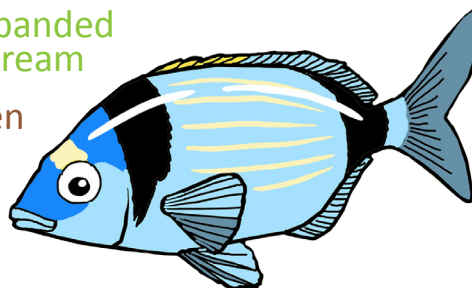


Ornate Wrasse
Lhudi

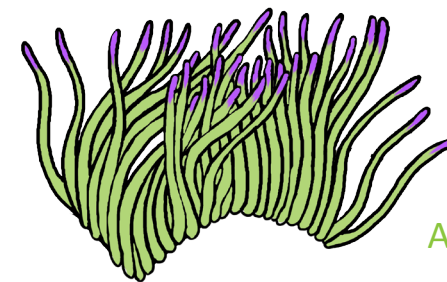
- The ornate wrasse has bright colours and patterns, it looks like a tropical fish
- It swims near rocks looking for snails and crabs to eat
- This fish does not like to stay in big groups
- The young fish are first girls, and when they grow up they change into boys!

Two-banded
Sea Bream

Xirgien

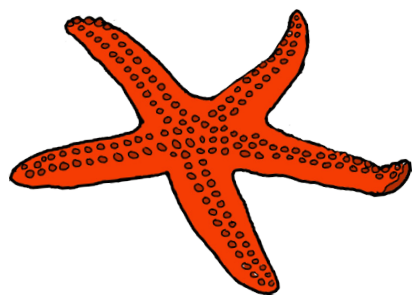


- There are many kinds of sea bream.
- The young live in shallow water near the shore
- They eat snails, worms, shrimps and crabs
- The Two-banded Sea Bream has two black stripes
- People catch many bream for food but we should always let young fish live, so they can grow up and lays eggs too



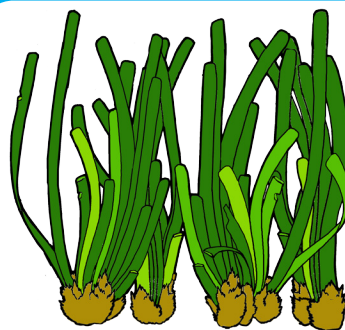
Anemone
Artikla

- Anemones look like plants but they are animals!
- They are cousins of jellyfish but they stick to rocks
- Some anemones sleep by day and open their tentacles at night
- Anemones have stings on their tentacles to catch small animals
- It's easy to see the Snakelocks Anemone (Artikla Hadra) in shallow water around rocky shores



Starfish
Stilla
tal-Baħar

- There are many kinds of starfish
- Some live on sandy bottoms and others live on shady rock faces
- Most starfish have five arms but some have more
- They walk on many tiny tubes
- A starfish's mouth is on the underside of its body
- Starfish eat clams and mussels
- If a predator bites off a starfish's arm, it can grow back!



Neptune
Grass
Alka

- Neptune grass is very important for life in the sea
- Its roots keep the seabed in its place
- Many young fish live among the leaves to hide from predators
- In big storms a lot of dead neptune grass washes up on the beach
- This stops big waves from washing the beach sand away
- Another name for this plant is Posidonia



Shore Crab
Granc
tax-Xatt

- This crab lives on rocky shores
- It can crawl into small holes and cracks
- It has good camouflage to hide from predators, like birds
- It hunts at night mostly
- It picks small animals and seaweed with its claws
- It can walk in all directions but sideways is the fastest