

Organism "Plaque" 30 point rubric

Name:

	5	4	3	1/0
Physical Description	1)average size 2)usual colors or coloration 3)location of fins or other unique features 4)description of eyes, gills, etc. (special features that your organism has) 5)a description of how it moves	4 of 5 requirements met	3 requirements met	Less than 3 requirements met
Habitat description and marine group:	1)ocean life zone (benthic—sublittoral, bathyal, abyssal or hadal; pelagic—neritic) 2) name at least 2 other organisms that also live in the same zone 3) group of marine life (plankton, nekton, or benthos).	3 of 4 requirements met	2 requirements met	Less than 2 requirements met
Food and Threats	1) Accurate and thorough description of what your organism eats 2) Description of how organisms eats 3) what predators or conditions threaten your organism	Information is unclear in one area	Missing one area of "Food and Threats"	Missing several requirements for "Food and Threats"
Adaptations: (minimum of 4)	List and describe four features that your organism uses to hide from or escape from prey, communicate, attract mates, eat, move in a unique way, etc. (may be included under physical description)	3 of 4 requirements met	2 requirements met	Less than 2 requirements met
Printed Color Picture of Organism and Layout	Includes color picture of organism that clearly shows what organism looks like (may be on the same or a different sheet) Layout of plaque shows good use of space (white space, letters and pictures are arranged in an attractive layout) Letters are easy to read from 3 feet away	Reduced points for: unclear picture, non-color picture	confusing layout of information	too much white space on plaque
Writing (Spelling/writing and text)	-All words are spelled correctly -Uses correct grammar and punctuation -Varied/interesting word choice -Printed on 8 ½ x 11 paper -All information uses student-level vocabulary (you should <i>understand</i> the words you use; don't just cut and paste)	3 of 4 requirements met	2 requirements met	Less than 2 requirements met
Total	/30			



The Red-knobbed Sea Star

The Red-knobbed sea star is also known by the scientific name *Protoreaster Linckii*. It can be found in the Indian Ocean in shallow waters of the sublittoral zone, and is usually less than 8 inches in diameter, is red and white, and it has many small bumps (or knobs) that cover its body. Like other sea stars (also known as star fish), its body is made of calcium carbonate.

Star fish are a type of organism called echinoderms. Starfish don't really have eyes as we think of, and they can't swim. At the end of their arms they have sensors, which can tell the difference between light and dark. That's how they "see." On the bottom of each arm, they have tiny tubes with suction feet (called tube feet) that let them crawl and climb slowly on the bottom of the ocean. They also breathe through the little tubes!

All starfish are benthos, which live on the ocean floor. They can often be found near sea anemones and coral, and they like to eat mollusks and clams. They eat in an unusual way. Starfish have mouths on the bottom in the middle of their bodies. They have the ability to crack open clams with their strong arms and they actually digest the clam inside its own shell by pushing the starfish's stomach out of its body!

The starfish is unique not only for the red color and texture that provides sort of a camouflage on the ocean floor, but for the way it moves and eats. Another very unique fact about starfish is that if one of their arms is broken or bit off, it can grow a new one!