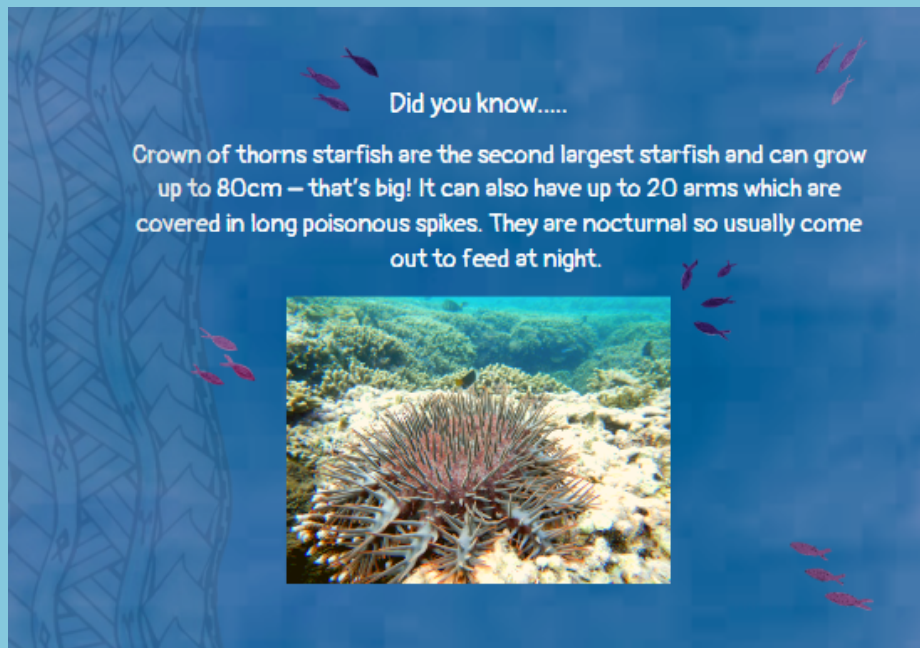




Activity - Crown of thorns starfish



Lesson Overview

Starfish are more appropriately named sea stars as they are in fact invertebrates and not fish. There are over 2000 species of sea stars. They can regenerate their arms if one is lost to a predator. They have no brains and no blood!

The crown of thorns starfish is a member of the sea star family. Whilst it is a natural predator on the reef, when there is an outbreak of them they can do some serious damage to coral reefs.

Inquiry questions

You could ask these questions before you begin and then again at the end.

- What is a sea star?
- What are crown of thorns starfish?
- What can be done about the crown of thorns outbreaks?

Ocean Literacy Principles



Watch this video to learn more about what Ocean Literacy is.



Principle #5

The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

These activities connect to Principle 5. To learn more check out this website



Activity - What is a starfish?

Before we delve into finding out more about the crown of thorns starfish first lets identify what a starfish is and why they should be called sea stars!

SCAN ME

Jonathan Bird's
Blue World - all
about sea stars



I am not a fish as I do
not have gills, scales or
fins! I am more commonly
called a sea star!



Activity - What is a crown of thorns starfish?

Check out these resources to find out more about the crown of thorns starfish.

Top 10 facts
about the
crown of
thorns starfish



How many crown
of thorns starfish
can you see in
this video ?



Learn about why
there are outbreaks
of crown of thorns
starfish on coral
reefs



Watch this mini
documentary to find
out more about
crown of thorns
starfish on the Great
Barrier Reef



Watch Behind the news
to find out more about
the different threats to
coral reefs including the
crown of thorns



Check out this
website that teaches
you to draw a crown
of thorns starfish



Activity - What can be done about the crown of thorns?

There are many people who are trying to help reduce the outbreaks of crown thorns starfish.

Watch the ABC news to see how they are trying to reduce numbers on the great barrier reef



Check out this video about a robot scientist have built to locate and kill crown of thorns starfish



Find out more about this ocean super hero who is trying their best to defend the reef against the crown of thorns starfish - and they are NOT HUMAN!

Introducing our super hero



Check out this David Attenborough narrated video about our hero



Create a poster, playdough model or a puppet show about the coral crab superhero defending the reef.

