









Invertebrate Characteristics

| COMMON NAME | EXAMPLES | IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS |
|---|--|--|
| SPONGES |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • saclike bodies • most live attached to objects on the ocean floor • have many pores (holes) through which water flows |
| CNIDARIANS [ni-DER-ee-uns] | jellyfish corals hydra  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have tentacles • all have stinging cells • live in water |
| FLATWORMS | tapeworms flukes planaria  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long, flat, ribbonlike bodies • some get food by living in another organism and absorbing food from that organism |
| ROUNDWORMS | hookworms nematode  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long, thin, tubelike bodies • some get food living in another organism and absorbing food from that organism |
| SEGMENTED WORMS | earthworms leeches  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long tubelike body that is divided into segments (sections) • simplest organisms with a well-developed nervous system |
| MOLLUSKS [MAHL-usks] | snails clams squids  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soft bodies • many have shells • most live in the ocean; some live in fresh water and on land |
| ECHINODERMS [ee-KY-noh-durms] | sea stars sand dollars sea cucumbers  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • usually have five arms that extend from a middle body section • have an internal skeleton made up of spines • live only in the ocean |
| ARTHROPODS [ar-thruh-PODS] | spiders lobsters centipedes grasshoppers  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have jointed legs • have a hard outer covering • have segmented bodies • live on land and in water |