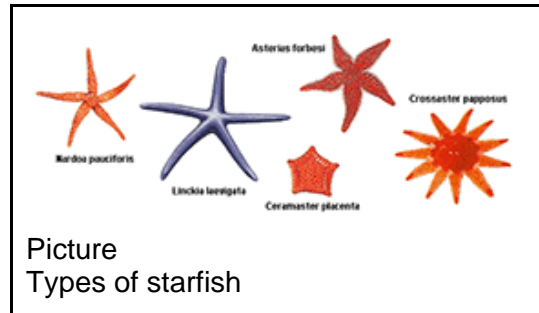


## Starfish



Starfish are sea animals with spiny skins and thick arms. Most starfish have five arms, but some kinds have more. The arms are lined with small tube feet that starfish use to crawl around and get food. If another creature grabs the arm of a starfish, it can drop off that arm and get away. It later grows a new arm. Starfish live in all the oceans of the world. There are many kinds.

Many starfish feed on animals with shells, such as clams and oysters. The mouth of the starfish is on its underside and leads into a baglike stomach. To get its meal, the starfish pulls the shells apart with its small tube feet. Then it pushes its stomach, inside out, through the opening and digests the animal's soft body.

Starfish produce their young by releasing eggs into the sea. The eggs become tiny swimming larvae that grow into starfish.

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