A Starfish and a Few Barnacles

Key Concepts

1. Seastars eat many things including mussels and other shellfish.
2. Seastars open shellfish by using their suction-cup tube feet.
3. Barnacles are crustaceans.
4. Barnacles are actually relatives of crabs, standing on their head and raking food into their mouth with feathery legs.

Teaching Hints

Read chapter 6 of Pagoo with students. Have students add information or drawings of seastars to their Pagoo Field Guides.

Chapter Summary

Pagoo is in a rocky place called “Mussel Ridge”. He meets a purple starfish (seastar) who is too slow to catch him. Pagoo then encounters barnacles, also crustaceans, and finally realizes they will not make a good home for him.

Key Words

barnacle - any of several species of crustaceans; most with volcano-shaped shells, whose larvae cement themselves permanently to a hard surface

crustacean - one of a group of animals characterized by jointed legs, segmented bodies, and hard external skeletons (exoskeleton)

seastar - a star-shaped animal with a central disk and five or more rays or arms, and which use tube feet for movement and to hold firmly to rocks