

Activity #5 - A Model Estuary

Objective :

Students will assemble a poster of an estuary showing the five communities of animals and plants that inhabit the estuary.

Materials:

- glue
- pictures of estuarine organisms (next pages)
- scissors
- colored pencils, pens, watercolor
- butcher paper or poster board

Procedures:

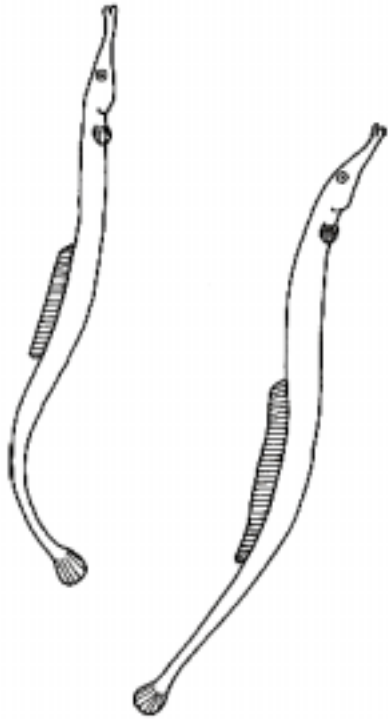
- 1) Have students research the concept of an estuary: a meeting of fresh water, ocean water and land.
- 2) Students will find photographs or diagrams of various estuaries to identify and see the differences between the 5 distinct communities that inhabit an estuarine environment:
 - open ocean
 - sand beach/sand bar
 - tidal marsh
 - mud flats
 - estuary uplands
- 3) Students begin their poster project by making an estuary background that depicts each of the 5 distinct communities. They may paint, draw or cut magazine photographs to make this background. Encourage them to show the underwater environment too (for open ocean species and fish).
- 4) Cut and paste the pictures of estuarine organisms (next pages) in their proper community.

Discussion:

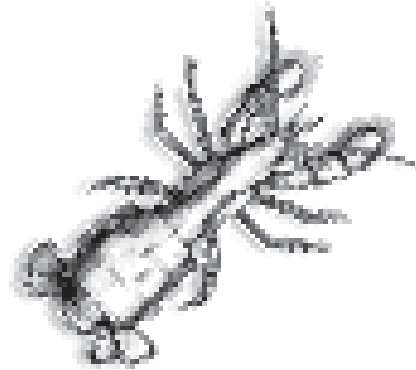
Have students write an explanation of each community found in the estuary. Have them include the type of animals and vegetation found there.

Activity #5 - A Model Estuary

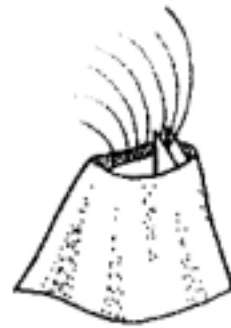
Illustrations used with permission of Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
<http://www.padillabay.gov/>



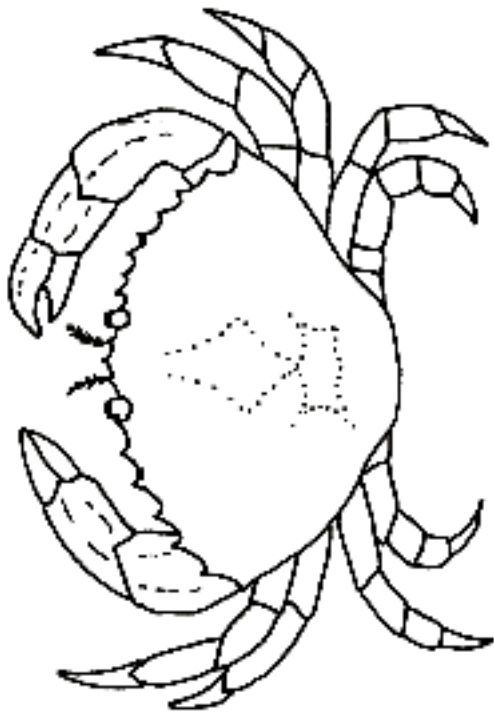
PIPEFISH



GHOST SHRIMP



BARNACLE



CANCER CRAB



DUCK

Activity #5 - A Model Estuary

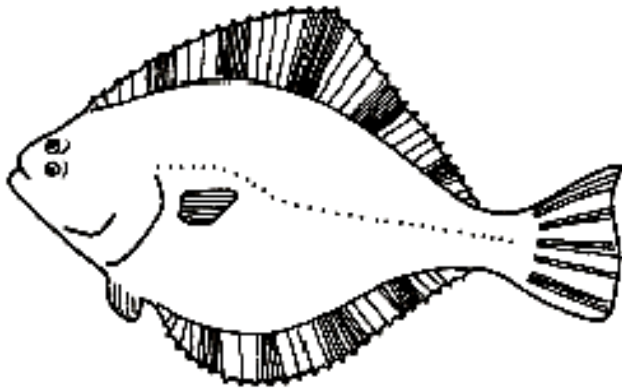
Illustrations used with permission of Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
<http://www.padillabay.gov/>



EAGLE



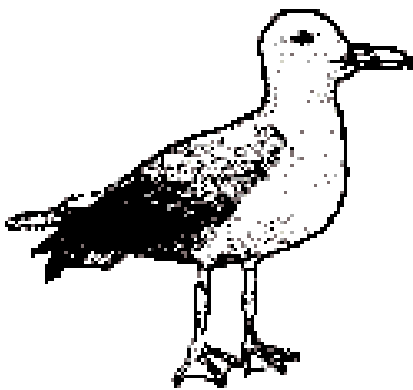
GUNNEL



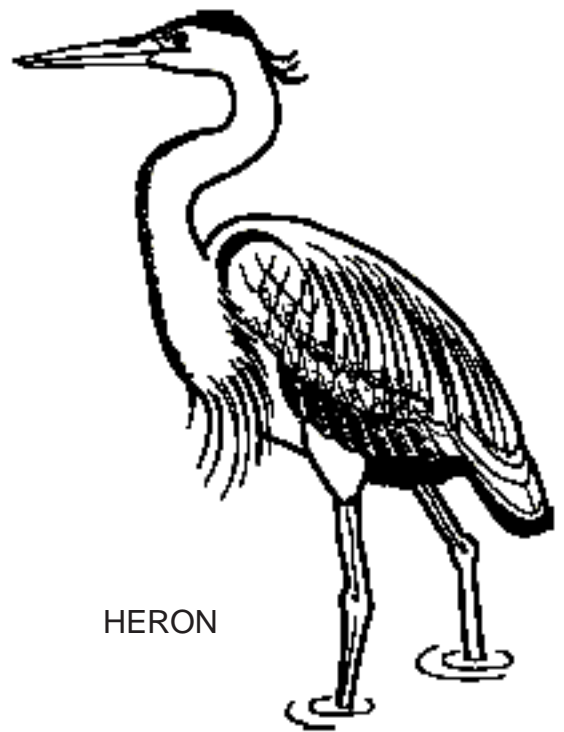
FLATFISH



HERMIT CRAB



GULL



HERON

Activity #5 - A Model Estuary

Illustrations used with permission of Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
<http://www.padillabay.gov/>



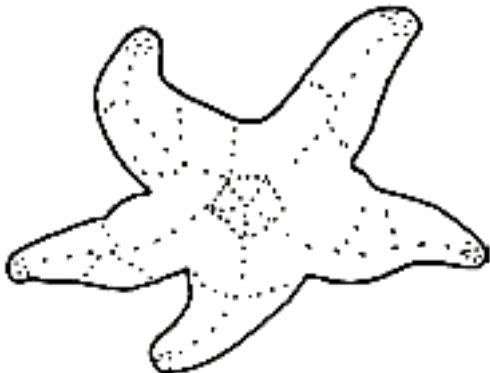
MUD SNAIL



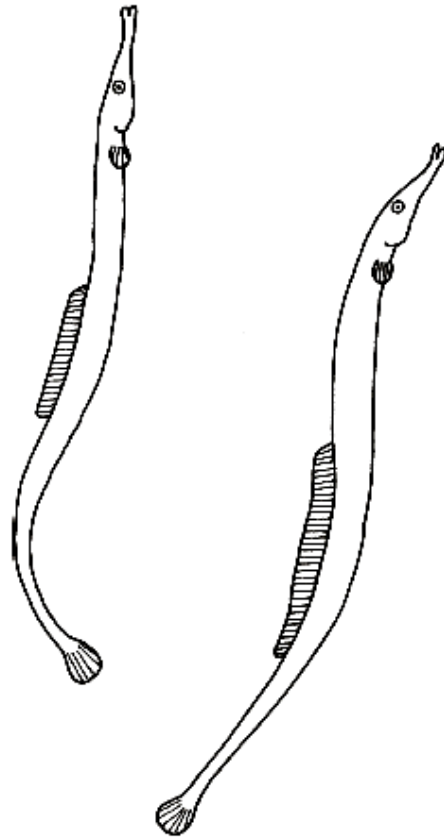
KILIFISH



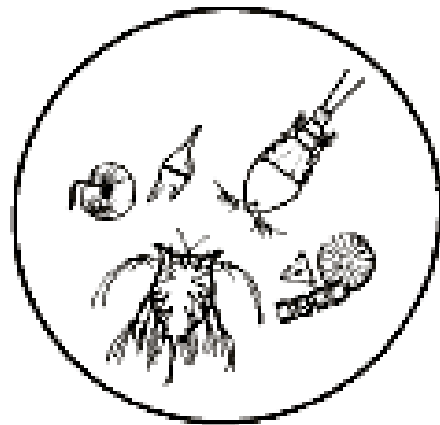
MUSSEL



OCHRE STAR



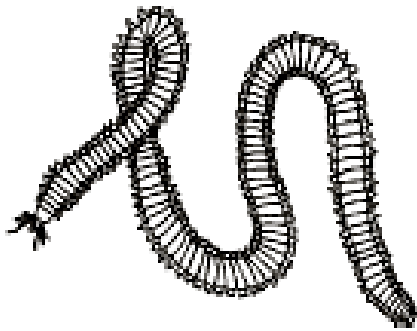
PIPEFISH



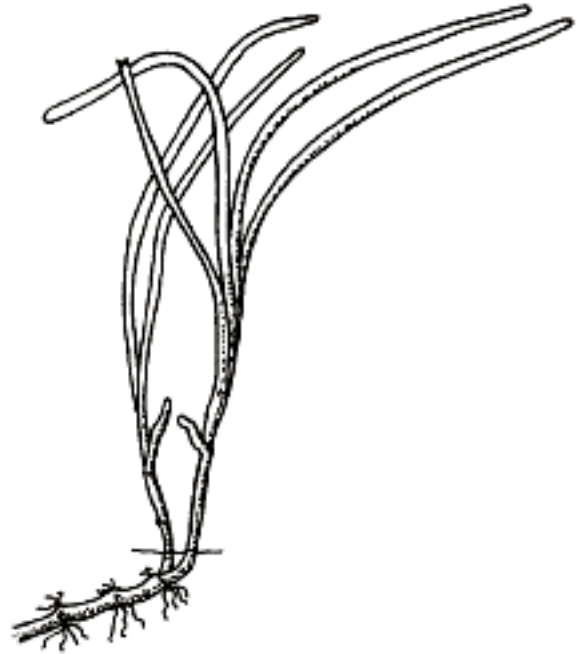
PLANKTON

Activity #5 - A Model Estuary

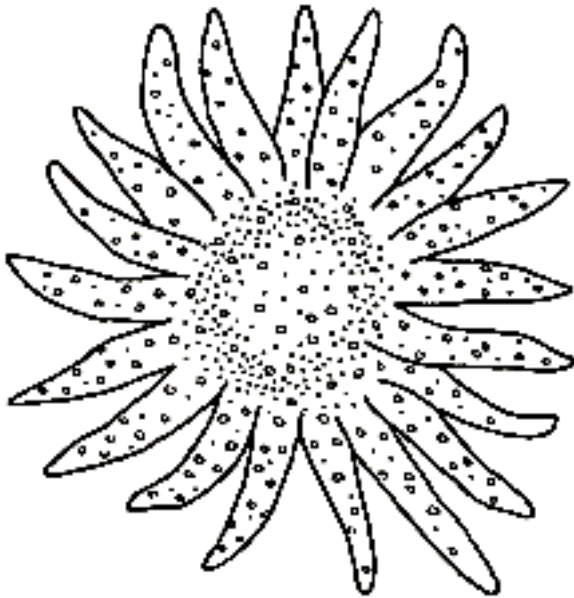
Illustrations used with permission of Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
<http://www.padillabay.gov/>



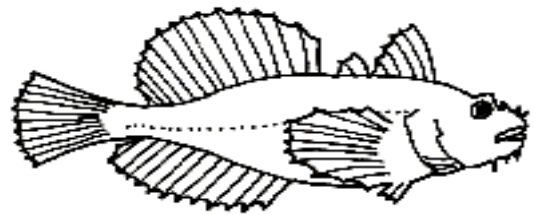
POLYCHAETE WORM



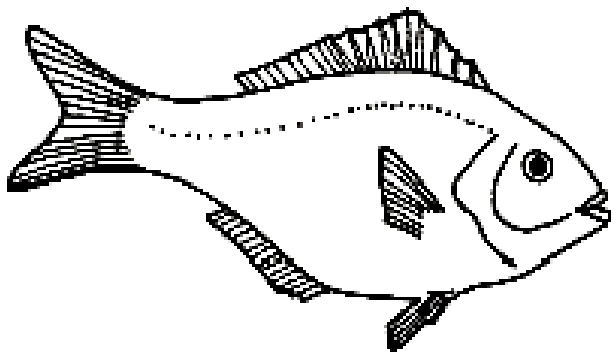
EEL GRASS



SUN STAR



SCULPIN



SURFPERCH



SHORE CRAB