



# SEACUCUMBERS

CLASS: HOLOTHUROIDEA

## DID YOU KNOW?

There is a fish that lives in the bottom of a seacucumber! The pearl fish sneaks inside when sea cucumber breathes and then hides out where no predator would think to look!

## WHERE AT AQWA?

Discover what a seacucumber feels like at our Touch Pool.

## SIZE:<300CM

**DIET: PLANKTON, ALGAE, DETRITUS, INVERTEBRATES**

**MAIN PREDATOR: CRABS, TURTLES, FISH, STARFISH, CRUSTACEANS**

**HABITAT: SEA FLOOR**

**FOUND: WORLDWIDE**

## WATER FRUITS?

Seacucumbers are named because just like the cucumber fruit, they have a tube shaped body which is full of water.

Seacucumbers pump water in and out of their body to give it shape and have the unique ability to escape by liquefy their skin and pour themselves to safety. This unique ability is thanks to “catch collagen” a protein that easily switches between soft or hard.

They have no brain, breathe through their bottom and send chemical signals through the water to contact each other. What sea cucumbers do have is feet – hundreds and hundreds of them! Lined with rows of tiny feet sea cucumbers use them to eat, sense light, move and stick to rocks.

## FOOT IN MOUTH

Seacucumbers eat with their feet! To feed they bring out their feet which are covered in slime. The slime traps tiny food floating in the water or collects it from the sand as the seacucumber crawls along the sea floor.

## OCEAN EARTHWORMS

Seacucumbers are a key part of the oceans recycling system breaking down scraps into particles small enough for bacteria to eat.

## GUT INSTINCT

Seacucumbers can squirt out their guts to defend themselves. The sticky mass of threads can entangle and confuse predators, stopping any further attacks. The seacucumber then grows its guts back!

For protections and rigidity seacucumbers also have a millions of tiny pieces of chalk scattered underneath their skin. Called ossicles they come in amazing shapes such as wheels and anchors. Ossicles are also found in starfish and seurchins to which seacucumbers are related!