

Freaky Features

in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary



Turn the card over to see what it is!

Freaky Features

in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary



Turn the card over to see what it is!

Freaky Features

in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary



Turn the card over to see what it is!

Freaky Features

in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary



Turn the card over to see what it is!

Striped Sun Star

The sunstar is the largest, softest and has the most rays of any northern Pacific sea star species. It is very fast moving, up to 360 feet per hour. It is also a voracious predator, living on shellfish, other live or dead animals and plants. Its mouth is on the underside, making it easier to feed.

Closed Plumose Anemones

Anemones, like their jellyfish relatives, are animals that eat by paralyzing prey that gets tangled in their tentacles. After stinging its prey anemones close around it. Anemones also close when exposed to air or disturbed. Worldwide, there are hundreds of kinds of anemones. Many are green because of algae which lives within their tissue and which provides added food as a byproduct of photosynthesis.

Surfgrass

Surfgrass looks like seaweed but it produces flowers, like most plants on land. It has a roots that grow into sand and small gravel. The leaves are long, slim and brilliant green. The flowers are tucked tightly against the stems. Surf grass beds are excellent habitat for small critters that hide there at low tide.

Orange Nudibranch

Nudibranchs (basically a snail without the shell) have been described as the most beautiful animals in all of the worlds oceans; there are more than 3000 kinds, each different in form and coloration. Like birds, coral fishes and butterflies, the coloration is often a warning telling others "don't eat me, I don't taste good".