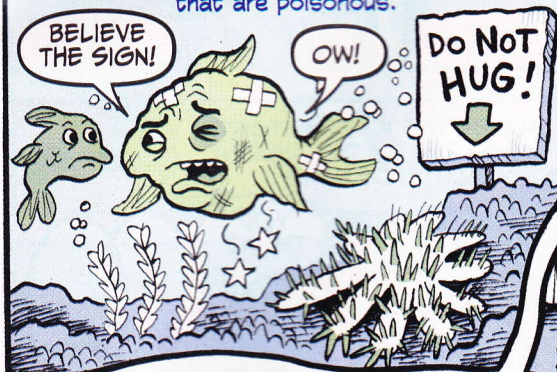


Sea stars live on the bottom of every ocean. Bony plates just under their skin give them spiny protection from predators. Some species have VERY long spines that are poisonous.



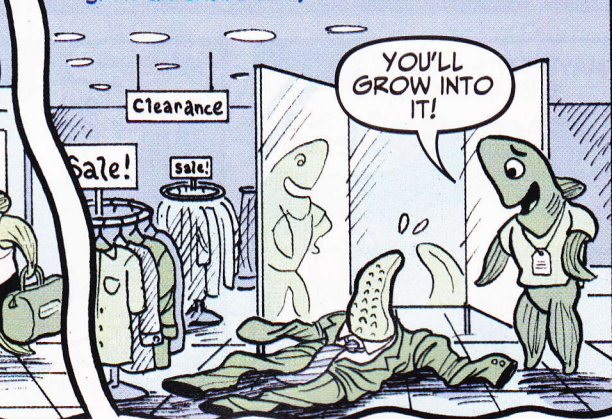
One species has no spines: the leather sea star is smooth. When threatened, it covers itself with mucus. It also smells like garlic.



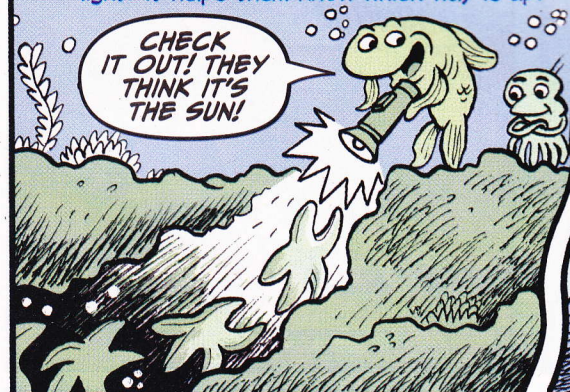
Most sea stars have five arms, but some species have as many as FORTY!



Losing an arm is no big deal for a sea star. It just grows a new one. Some can even grow an entire body from a SINGLE limb.



Sea stars can't see, but they have eyespots on the ends of their arms that can detect light. It helps them know which way is up.



Some sea stars eat by pushing their stomach out through their mouth and enveloping prey with it. When it's done digesting, the sea star retracts the organ and absorbs the liquid.

