A-Z
San Diego
Animal Guide
Aa

I have stinging tentacles to catch my prey. I am a cousin of jellyfish and corals. I get protection from the sun and predators by covering my body with seashells, and by trapping water inside my tentacles and closing them. I have protection from waves because of my sticky foot to hold on tight to rocks.

Who am I?
Anemone- Anémone
Bb

I like to hide under the kelp holdfast (looks like a root).
I have five skinny arms.
Sometimes I let go of an arm to escape from predators, but don´t worry I can grow one back.
I live in the kelp forest, and I eat little pieces of dead animals and plants.

Who Am I?
Brittle Star- Estrella Quebradiza
I like shallow or deep water. My home could be a tide pool, a forest under the sea called kelp forest or a wetland.

I eat algae and animals like the 2 shelled animals called clams and 10 legged animals called shrimp.

I have 10 legs--The ones on the front help me catch my food and are called claws. When I grow too big for my shell I hide and grow a new one. This is called molting.

Who am I?
Crab - Cangrejo
I like to swim in the open ocean.
I like to swim above the kelp forest to catch some delicious fish.
I am a marine mammal, that breath air with lungs just like you.
You can find me swimming in big groups with hundreds or even thousands of other animals just like me. Who am I?
Dolphin- Delfín
I am an underwater plant that grows in clumps that can form meadows.
My roots anchor to the sandy or muddy ocean floor.
I look exactly like a common green plant that grows in your yard.
What am I?
Eelgrass-- Yerbas marinas
Ff

I am an animal without arms or legs, but I do have bones in my body.
The outside of my body has scales on it.
I live completely underwater and need gills to breathe.
I get around by using my fins to swim.
What am I?
Fish-Pez
I live in the kelp forest on the rocky seafloor.

When I am very young or small I may live in wetlands and estuaries (where rivers empty into the sea).

When I am young I also have blue spots. I eat shrimp, crabs, and snails. I am also the State Marine Fish of California.

What am I?
Hh

I am a mammal that lives in the ocean and on the beach.
I like to eat fish, squid, clams, and mussels.
I can be seen sunbathing on the rocks at La Jolla shores.

Who am I?
Harbor Seals- Foca común
I am an underwater animal with a hard outer skeleton.

I have three main body parts; the head, thorax, and abdomen. What am I?
Isopod- Isópodo
I am a free-swimming animal that is found in every ocean; from the surface all the way to the deepest parts.

I am shaped like an umbrella, but have a soft + gelatinous body type.

I also have tentacles that can sting you-

Ouch!

What am I?
Jellyfish - medusa
Kk

I live in cold salty water.
People sometimes call my home a forest.
I am an aquatic plant with no true roots, stems, or leaves.
I get my food from sunlight.
You can often see me washed up on the beach.
What am I?
Kelp-Kelp (algas californianas)
I am an animal with 10 legs and a hard outer shell.
I am most closely related to crabs and shrimp.
I live on the ocean floor.
I eat mostly fish and clams, but sometimes like algae and other plants.
What am I?
Lobster-Langosta
Mm

I have a soft inside body that I keep protected with 2 shells.

I don’t like to eat big animals because I only can eat tiny little creatures, like plankton or dead animals and plants, also known as detritus.

I slightly open my shell and filter the water, kind of like a pasta strainer.

What am I?
Mussels- Mejillón
Nn

I am a soft-bodied sea creature without any kind of shell.
I can be very colorful, having many designs and bright colors.
I can also be called a sea slug.
What am I?
Nudibranch- Nudibranquios
Oo

I am a fast swimmer with eight legs that have suction cups on the bottom of them. I spray an ink when an attacker comes near to obstruct their view. I can camouflage (blend) with my environment too!

Who am I?
Octopus-Pulpo
I am a large bird that lives near the ocean. I build my nests on rocks or shrubs near the ocean shore.

I eat fish and hunt by diving into the ocean with my beak.

I use my big pouch under my beak as fishing net to catch my meal.

What am I?
Pelican (California Brown Pelican). Pelícano
Qq

I am a gray and brown bird that lives in the chaparral of the foothill forests of California.

I am small, round, and have one feather that sticks out of the top of my head.

I spend most of my time on the ground walking and scratching the ground with my feet to find food. What am I?
Quail - Codorniz
I am a creature that lives underwater by the sand or the muddy bottom of the sea. I have a smooth body and my shape is almost round like a circle, but I am flat. I have a tail with a very sharp end. I have a mouth, nostrils, and gills on the underside of my body. I eat worms, shrimp, clams, and other things that live at the bottom of the oceans. What am I?
Round Stingray-Raya redonda
My home or habitat is a rocky place on the beach known as tide pool or rocky intertidal.

When the tide goes up I stay below, when the tide goes down I stay above the ocean water.

At low tide the water goes down and my home is exposed/outside the water. I can be pink, red, purple, and orange.

I have five strong arms with special sticky feet called tube feet.

My mouth is under my body in the center of the disc where my arms come from. What am I?
Sea Star (Knobby Sea Star)-
Estrella de Mar
I am a rocky pool on the sea shore that is filled with seawater.

I am home to many different creatures such as sea stars, mussels, and clams. Sometimes I can disappear when the tide gets really high. What am I?
Tide pool - Pozas de Marea
Uu

I am a small spiny animal that can live in tide pools or in deep water, too!
I can be green, brown, purple, or red!
I move slowly and feed mostly on algae.
Who am I?
Urchin (Sea Urchin)-Erizo de mar
Vv

I am an aquatic mollusk that has a compressed body enclosed within a hinged shell.
I could be an oyster, clam, mussel, or scallop!
I use my gills to filter water and collect food.
What am I?
Valve (Bivalve)- (bi)valvo
Ww

I am a fish that is common in tide pools. I use my gills to breath under water, but I can breathe air when out of water. I eat small animals like worms, snails, and crabs. I hunt by hiding and waiting for my food and jump to grab it when I see it. I am about 2-5 inches long. Who am I?
Wooly Sculpin- Charrasco lanudo
Xx

I am a very large fish. My name means Sword in Greek and it resembles one prominent body part. I am a very fast swimmer and people like to eat me a lot in restaurants. I am darker blue on the top of my body and light silver on my tummy. I have a spear shaped upper jaw.

What am I?
Xiphias- Pez espada
Yy

I am a large fish that has a stripe of yellow on my body and my fins are yellow too! I eat smaller fish like sardines and anchovies.
I also like to swim with all of my friends in a school, rather than by myself.
Who am I?
Yellow tail- Jurel de Castilla o aleta amarilla
Zz

I am a TINY creature that lives in the ocean.
I am so small that you need a microscope to see me.
I drift in the ocean and many other animals eat me (including fish)!
Who am I?
Zooplankton - zooplancton