Body Parts

Animals have body parts that help them swim, fly, eat, and more. But do octopuses and birds have any parts in common? Do people have any parts in common with a sea star? Use this guide to explore four body parts and compare how different animals use them. As you move around the galleries, find and identify as many body parts as you can!

Things to do

• Touch a shark
• See a show
• Visit a Discovery Lab
• Ask questions
• Have fun!

• Write or draw about your trip to the Aquarium
• Consider a classroom animal adoption
• Visit aquariumofpacific.org/teachers
• Keep learning more
Since they have no bones, sea stars are not fish, but rather invertebrates. That’s why we call them sea stars and not starfish. Sea stars have an eyespot at the end of each arm with which they can see light and dark, but not much else. If a sea star loses an arm, it can grow back or regenerate. Sea stars have thousands of tube feet lining each arm.

**Guiding questions:**
- How do sea stars stick to rocks so well?
- Where do sea stars live?
- How are their arms like our arms? How are they different?

**Activities for students:**
- Stretch out your arms, legs and head and say “I’m a star!”
- Remember, if you were a sea star your mouth would be on your belly.

**Fins**

Fish & Sharks

Fins make sharks and fish very good swimmers. Sharks typically use their caudal fin to move forward, while some fish, like clownfish, use their pectoral fins. With so many fish at the Aquarium, there are plenty of fins to carefully observe. What type of fins do you see?

**Guiding questions:**
- Do all fish use their fins the same way?
- How many dorsal fins are on a shark?
- In which direction does the shark move its caudal fin?

**Activities for students:**
- Play shark Simon Says. Simon says move your pectoral fins. Simon says put up your dorsal fin. Swim like a clownfish. Simon didn’t say!

**Arms**

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**Beaks**

Shorebirds & Octopus

Birds use their beaks to catch and eat food. The type of beak a bird has depends on where and how it eats. Birds aren’t the only ones with a beak. An octopus’ mouth is a beak too. The octopus beak, located between its arms, is the only hard part of its body. How many kinds of beaks can you find at the Aquarium?

**Guiding questions:**
- Why do birds have different kinds of beaks?
- Where is the octopus’ mouth? What is it called?
- Can you guess what an octopus eats with its beak?

**Activities for students:**
- Visit Lorikeet Forest and look at the birds’ beaks and tongues.
- How are lorikeets different than the other birds at the Aquarium?

**Shells**

Spider Crabs & Snails

As they grow, crabs and lobsters must shed their skin or molt. Snail shells, however, grow with the animal. Shells are a great way to protect soft animals from predators or the crashing waves of a tidepool. Can you find other animals around the Aquarium that have shells?

**Guiding questions:**
- Do all shells feel the same?
- Hermit crabs outgrow their shells and have to find new ones. What animals make the shells they use?

**Activities for students:**
- Sit on your bottom with your hands behind you and your knees bent. Push up on your hands and feet and walk like a crab. Remember crabs usually move sideways!

**Dorsal Fin**

**Caudal Fin**

**Pectoral Fin**

Clownfish use their pectoral fins to swim.

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