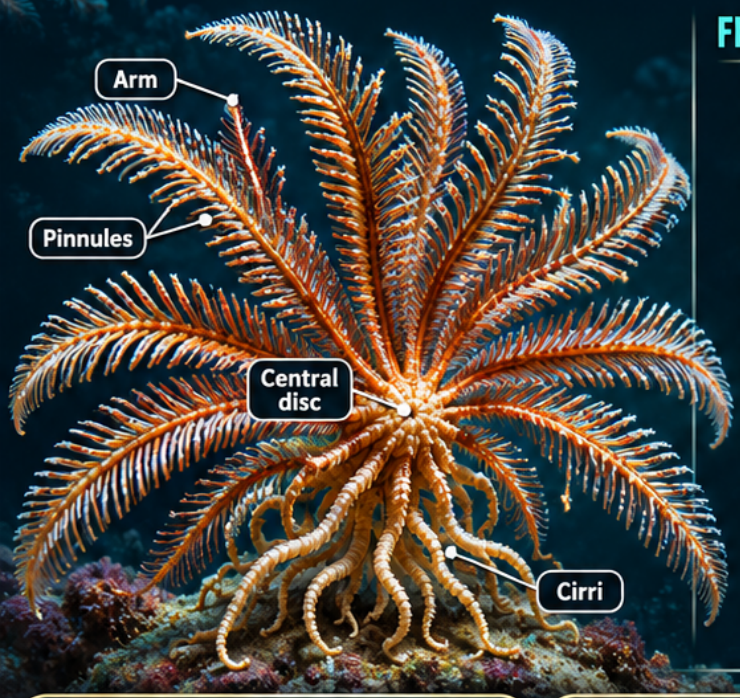
CRINOID CRITTERS

HIDDEN LIFE AMONG FEATHER STARS

Feather stars shelter tiny animals, including squat lobsters, shrimps and specialist fishes.

CLASS CRINOIDEA | ECHINODERMS | SUSPENSION FEEDERS



FEATHER-STAR ANATOMY

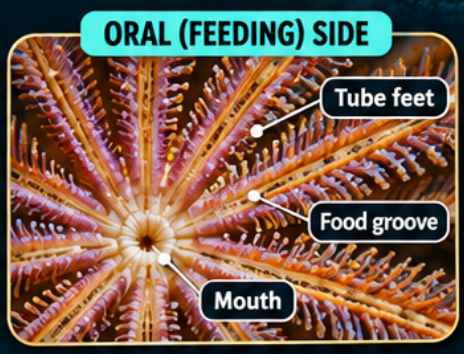
Arms – Feathery, flexible appendages that radiate from the central disc.

Pinnules – Paired branchlets along each arm, which increase the feeding surface.

Tube feet – Tiny, flexible extensions along the food grooves that capture suspended food.

Food grooves – Channels on the oral (feeding) surface that transport food to the mouth.

Cirri – Grasping appendages on the aboral (underside) surface that anchor the feather star to the substrate.





SQUAT LOBSTERS

Some match their host's stripes.



SHRIMPS

Slender bodies blend among the arms.



CLINGFISH

Certain species attach using a suction disc.



CAMOUFLAGE & ASSOCIATIONS

Host colours and patterns can conceal tiny residents. Relationships vary by species.

DIVER TIP

Look for claws, antennae or tiny movements. Never move or spread the arms.

Respect the host. Photograph without touching.

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