

## Marine Invertebrates Vocabulary

<b>Chromatophore:</b>	Pigment-bearing cells of lower vertebrates that help animals to shift body coloration and pattern (ex. octopus)
<b>Exoskeleton:</b>	External skeleton that supports and protects an animal's body
<b>Filter Feeding:</b>	Method in which food particles are filtered from the water as it passes by or through some part of the organism
<b>Invertebrate:</b>	An animal without a backbone
<b>Molting:</b>	Shedding of the exoskeleton
<b>Nematocyst:</b>	A specialized stinging cell in the tentacles of a Cnidarian
<b>Phylum:</b>	A level of classification or taxonomic rank that is below kingdom and above class
<b>Planktonic:</b>	Floater or drifter
<b>Sessile:</b>	Fixed in one place; immobile; stuck
<b>Taxonomy:</b>	The science of identifying, naming and classifying organisms
<b>Vertebrate:</b>	An animal possessing a backbone