

## Marine Larvae - "Are You Me?"

This was developed as a modification of the "Water Babies" Activity from Sound Ideas, Elementary Project Estuary by North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve. Permission was granted to copy the materials (pictures) for educators. It is a marine extension of and similar to "Are You Me?" from the Aquatic Project WILD Activity Guide.

### Objectives:

To be able to list at least five animals that spend the early part (young or larval stage) of their lives as marine/estuarine plankton.

To be able to describe how young animals differ from adults.

To be able to recognize the larval form of some common marine/estuarine organisms.

To be able to explain the difference between animals that spend all of their lives as plankton (holoplankton) and those that are plankton only for the larval stage of life (meroplankton).

To use critical thinking skills to determine the identity of an unknown animal larvae.

### Materials:

24 5" X 7" index cards

Set of young/larvae and adult animal cards (copy supplied)

Additional pictures of other marine larvae (supplied - fish, worms, snails, etc.) and their adult forms

Field guides, keys, text books and other pictures with marine larvae labeled

(optional - yarn to hang the cards around neck)

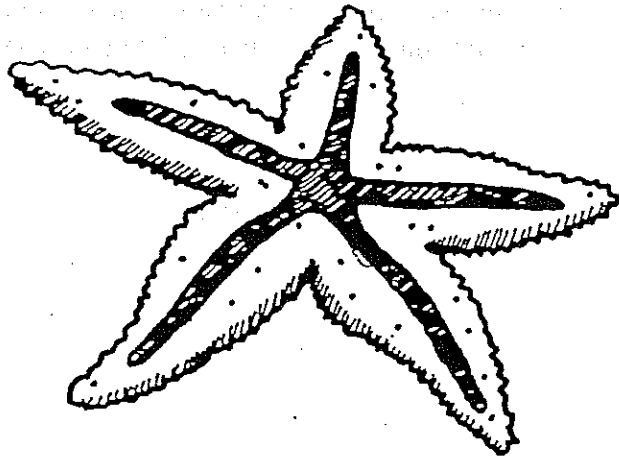
### Background:

Many marine organisms spend the early part of their lives as young babies or larvae in estuaries. At least 90% of all seafood species spend at least part of their lives in the safety of an estuary. Many species of fish and crabs migrate into estuaries to lay their eggs. The young animals find abundant food and shelter in the brackish marshes and sea grass beds.

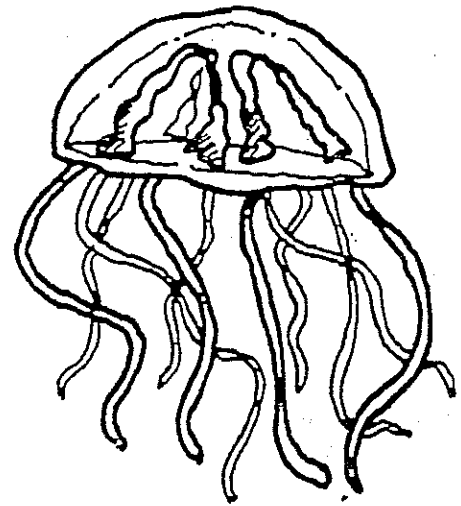
In this interactive activity students match the young/larvae of marine and estuarine species with their adult forms. This is appropriate for upper elementary through college level. It can be used to introduce, reinforce or follow-up lessons about larvae and plankton.

### Procedure:

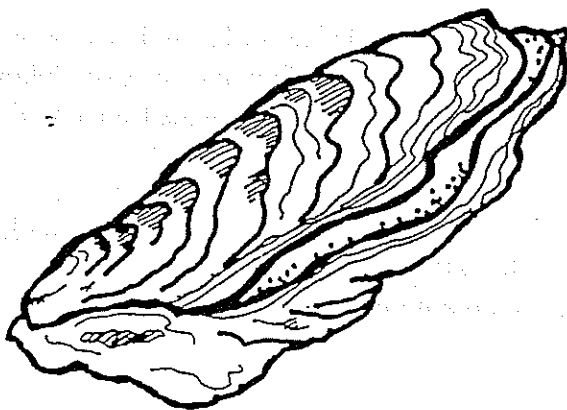
Make a copy of the picture cards - you can block off the letters to make it more difficult. Cut the adult and baby animals apart and glue each one on an index card. If there are not enough for each student, make additional sets using pictures of larval and adult marine fish, snails, worms, etc. Give each student one card. Instruct the students to examine the characteristics of their animal. Then have them try to find the adult or young/larvae that matches it. Post labeled pictures and/or have books available for students to help with identification. If any students are having difficulty help them use the resources to find their animal's name. Once all the matches have been made, have the students stand in the matched pairs, hold up their cards and name their animals one pair at a time.



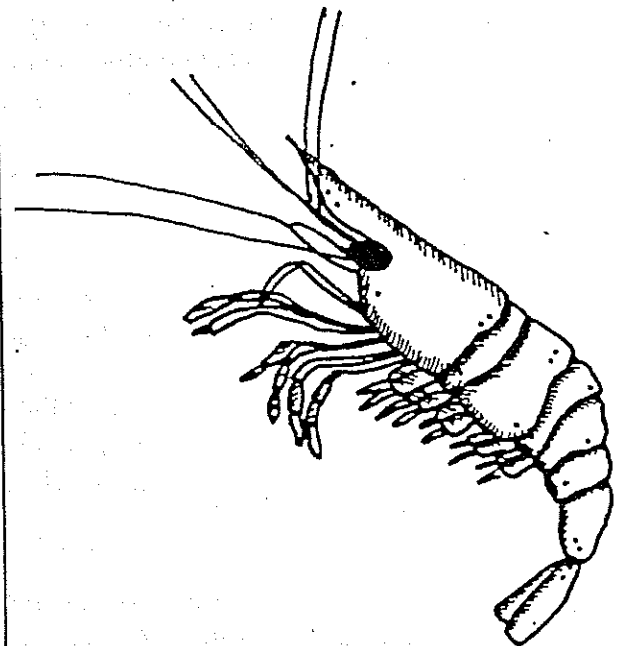
A-- seastar



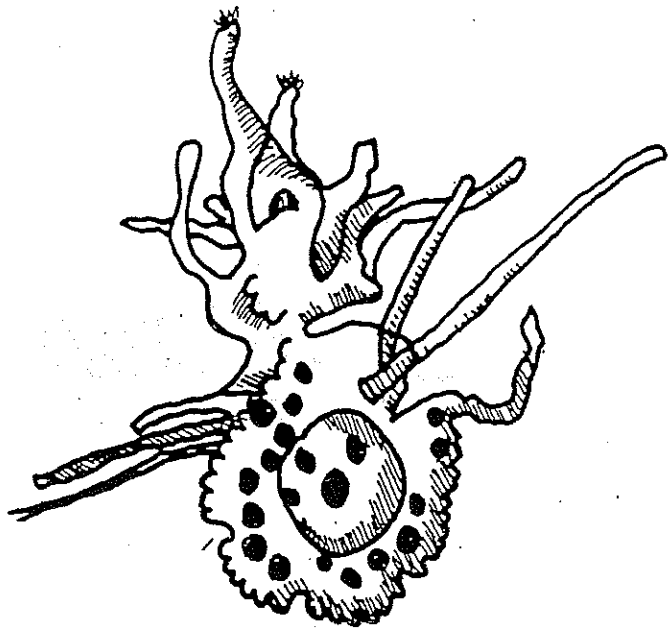
B--JELLYFISH



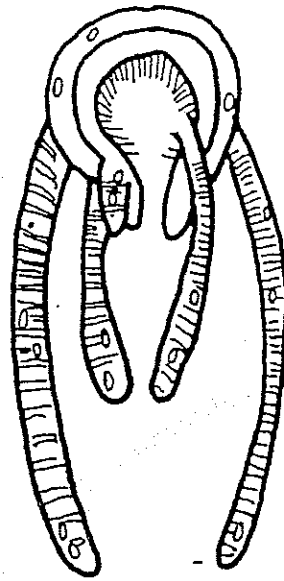
C--OYSTER



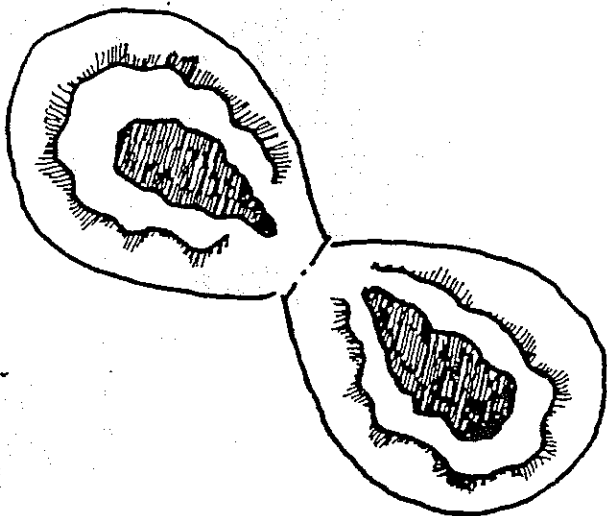
D--SHRIMP



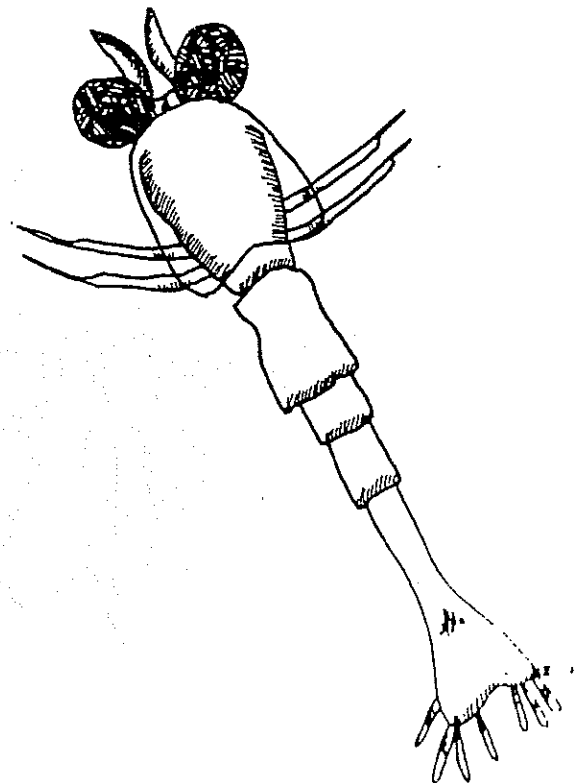
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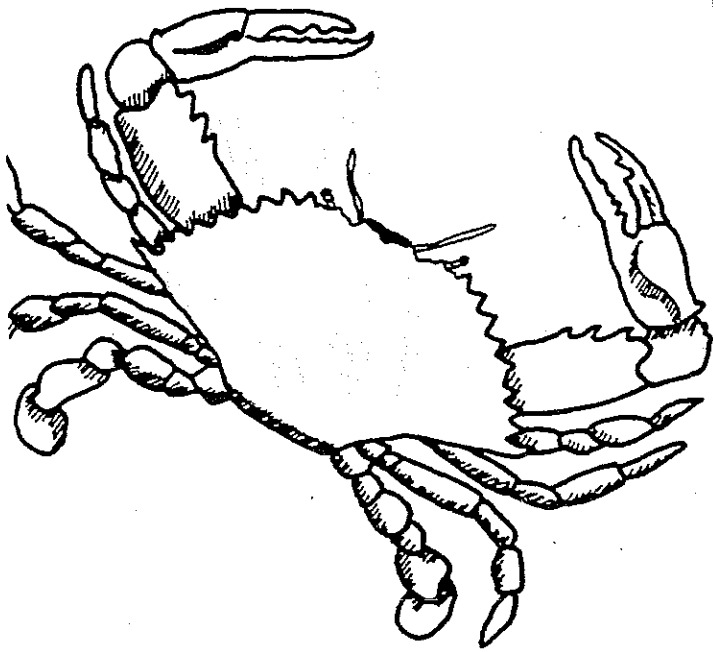
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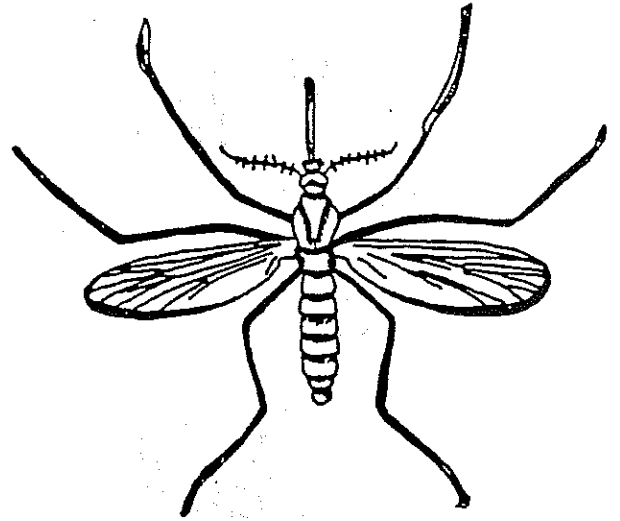
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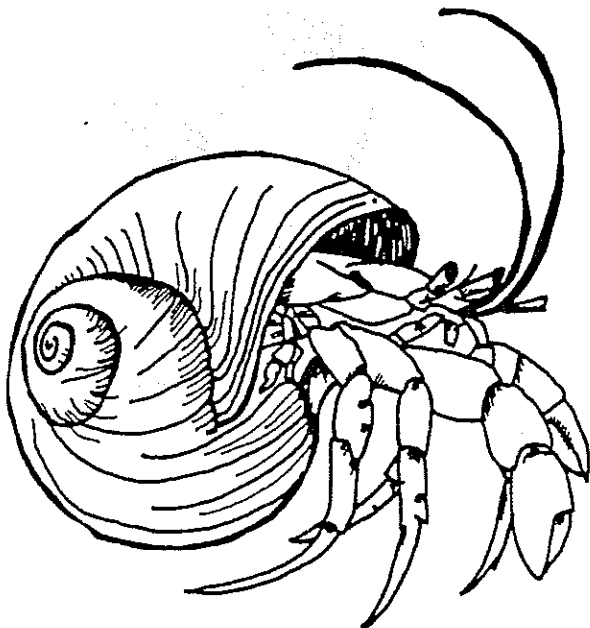
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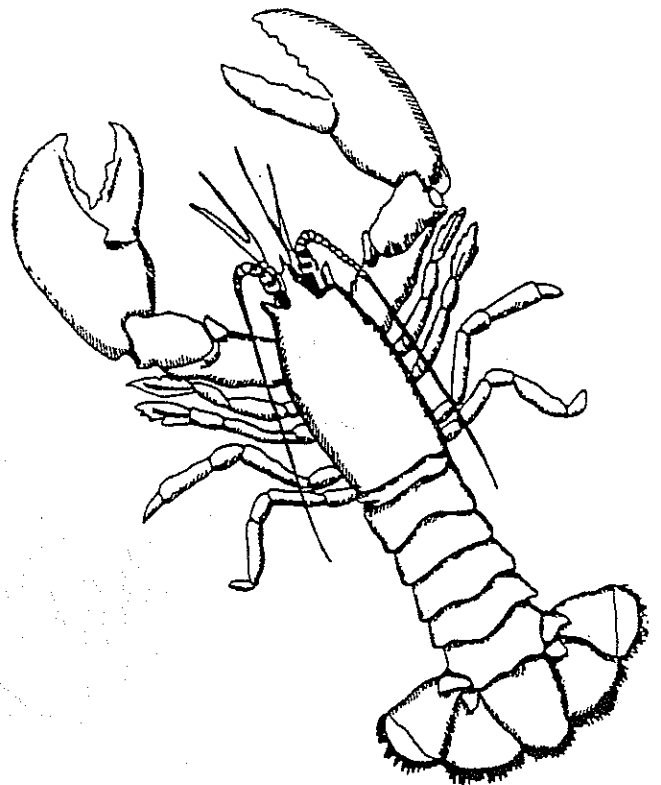
**E--CRAB**



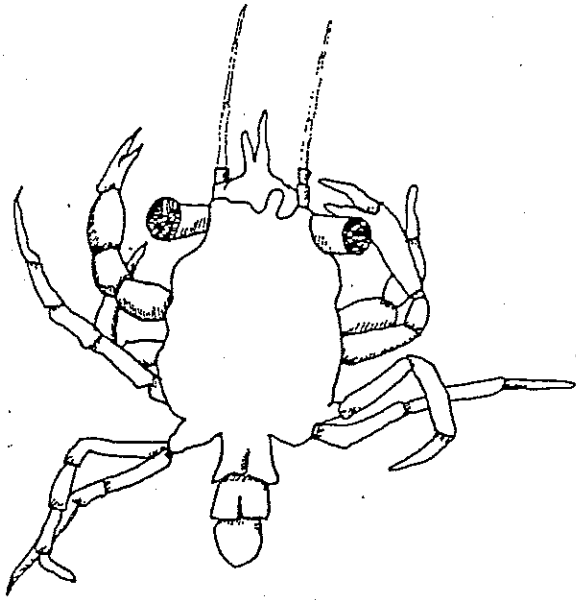
**F--MOSQUITO**



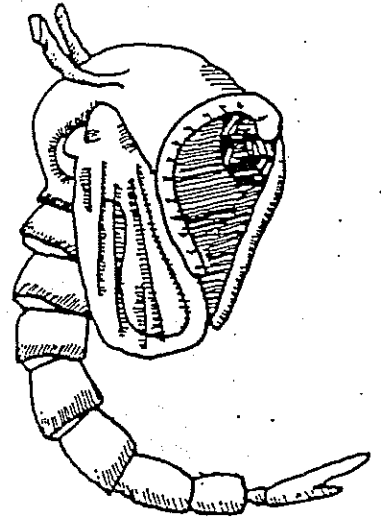
**G--HERMIT CRAB**



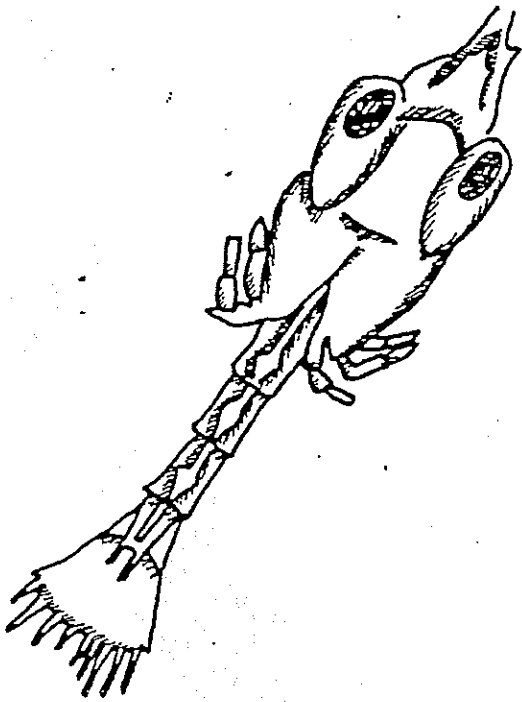
**H--LOBSTER**



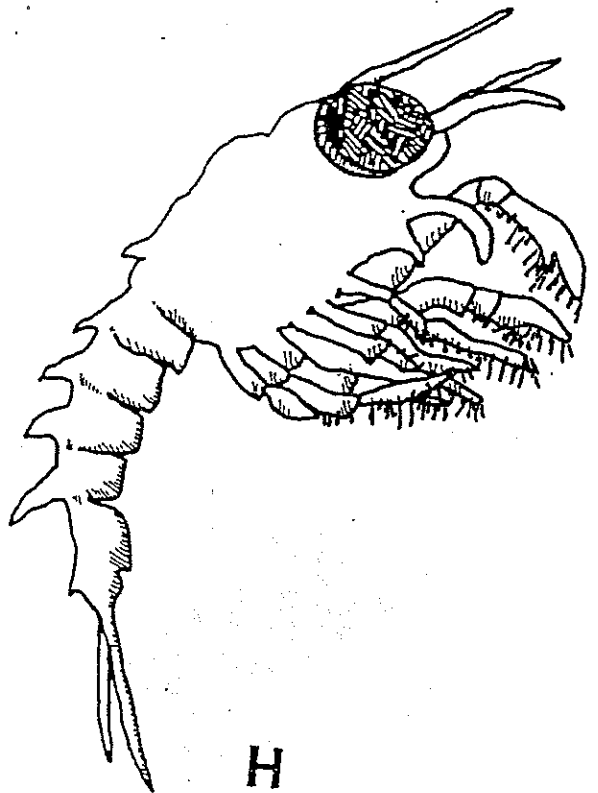
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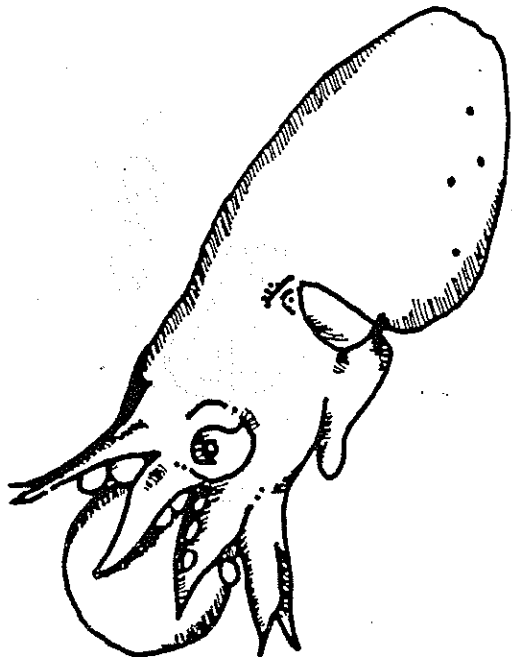
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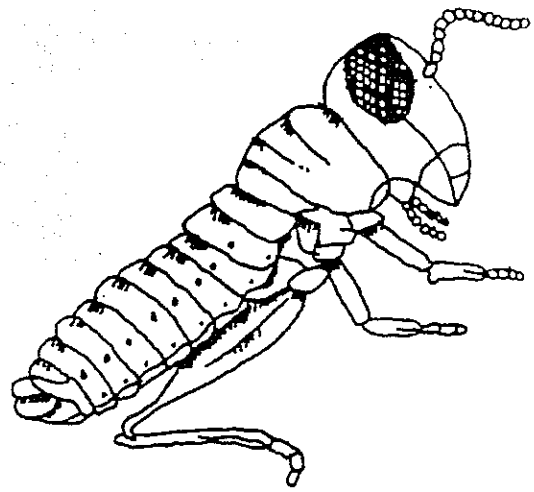
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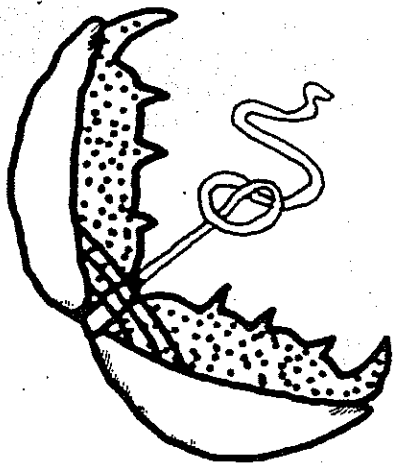
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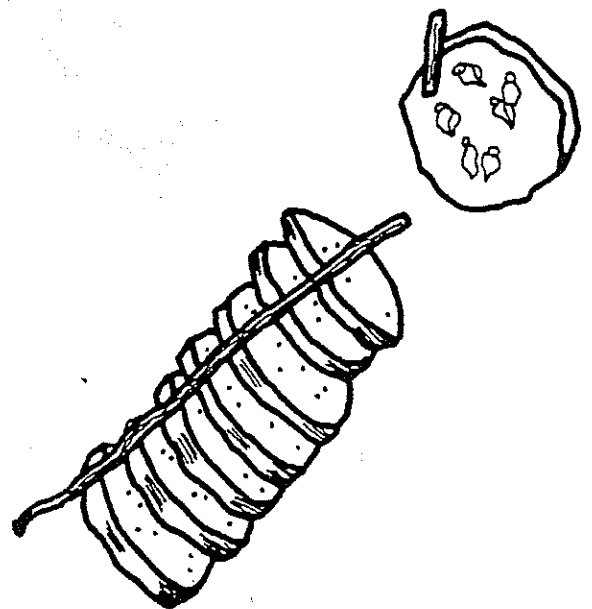
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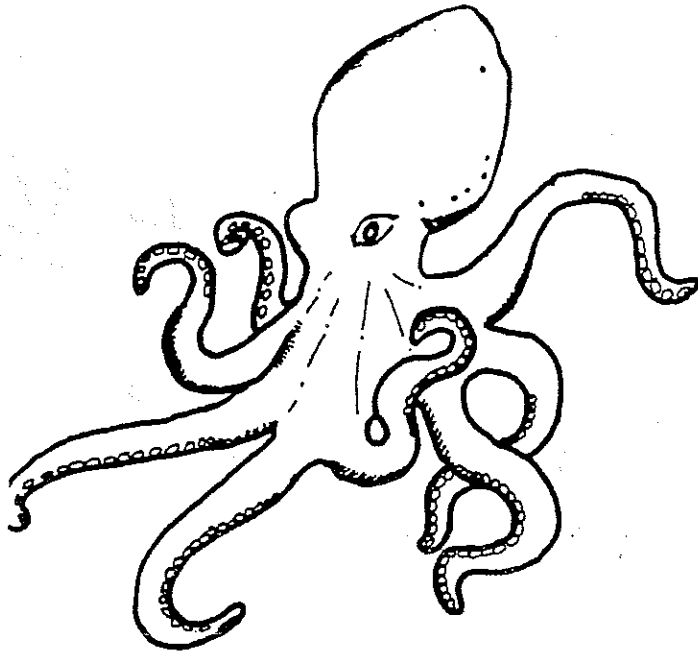
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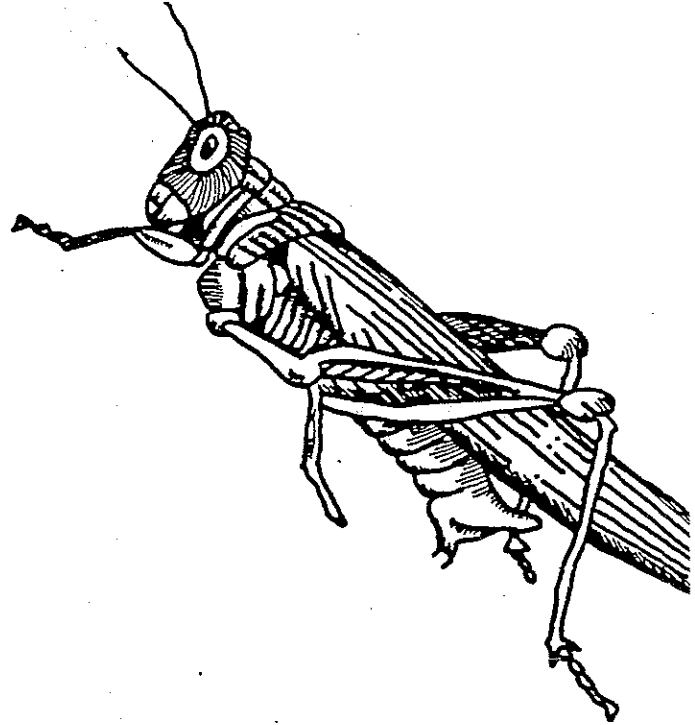
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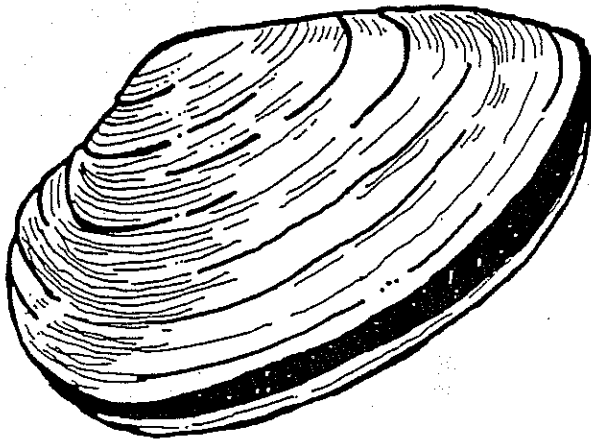
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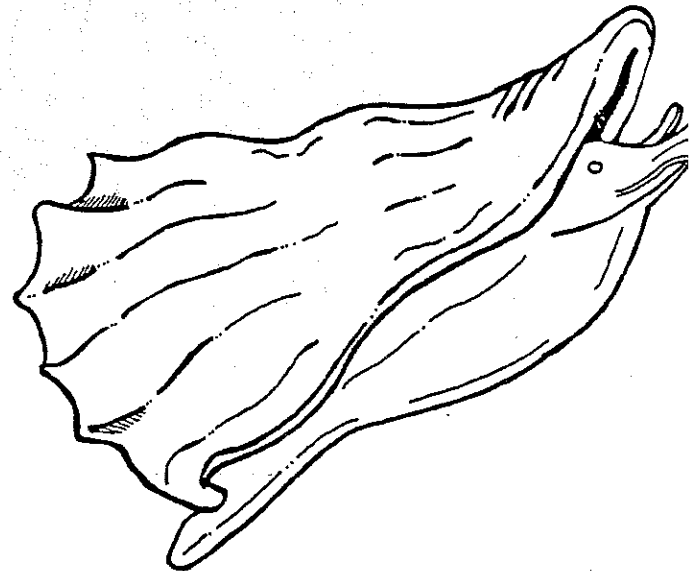
I--OCTOPUS



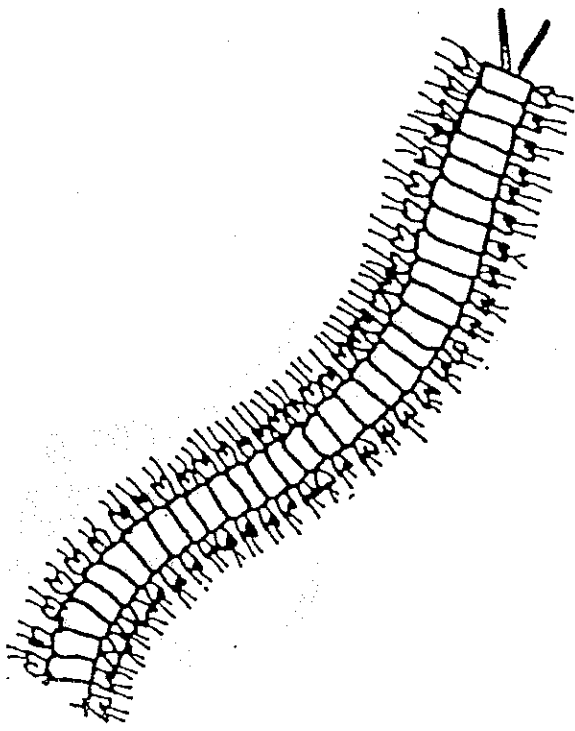
J--GRASSHOPPER



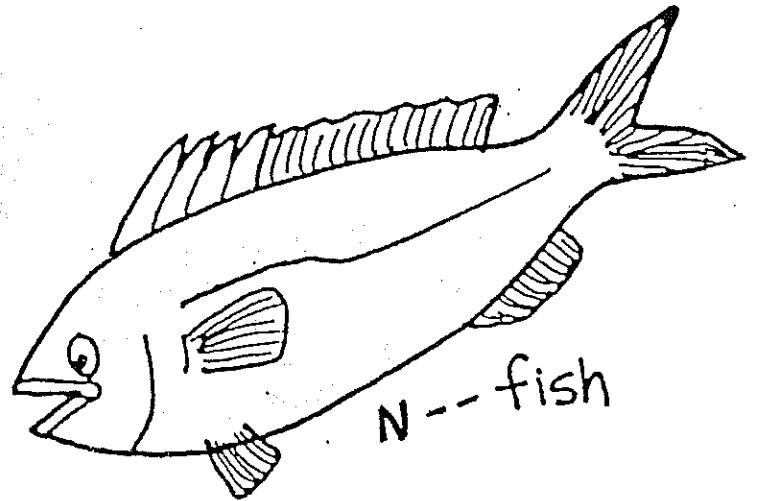
K--CLAM



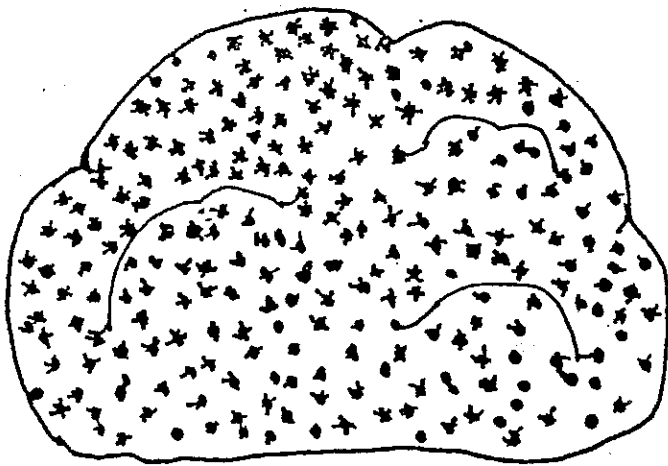
L--WHELK



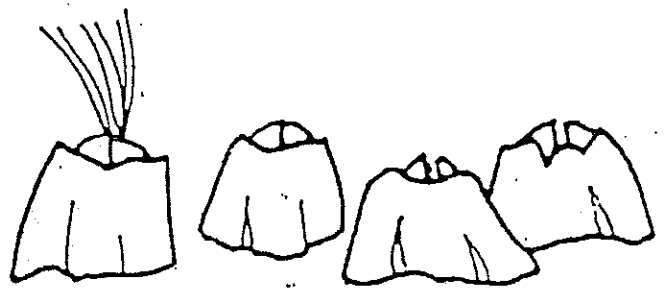
M-- bristle worm



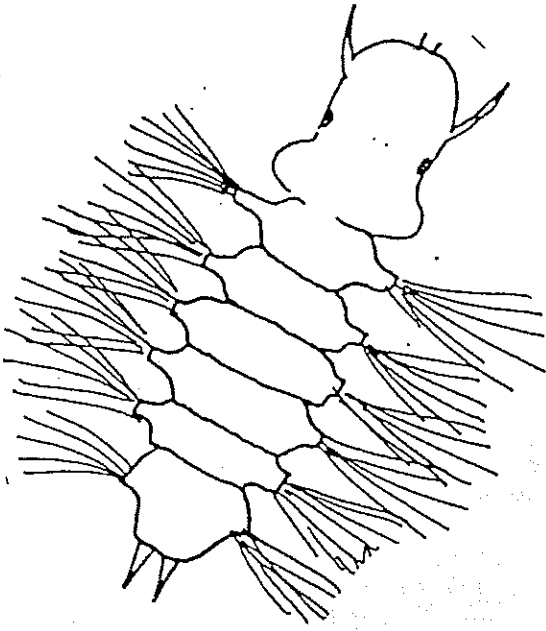
N--- fish



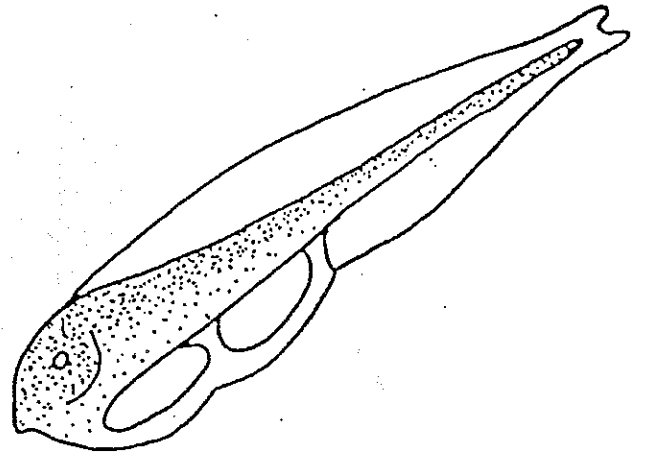
O--- coral



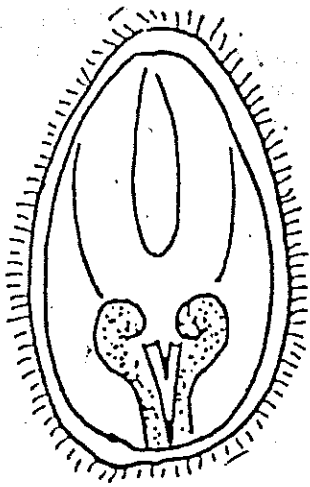
P-- barnacles



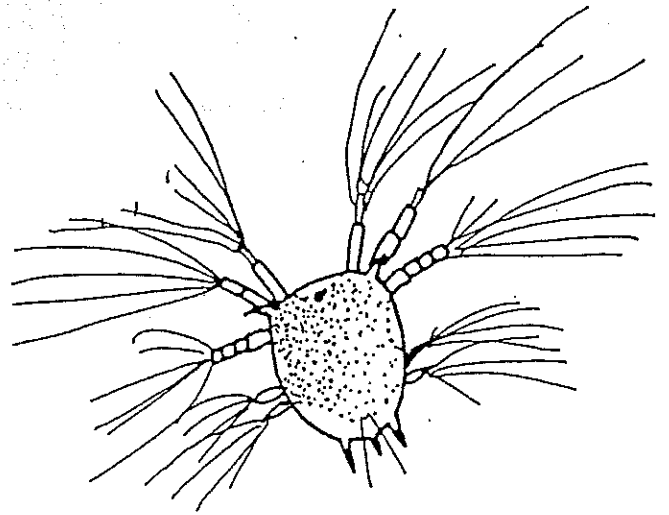
M



N



O



P