



Sea urchin (echinoid) with spines attached

Echinoid spines are distinctive in their character. They are 1-2 mm across and usually have ribs that run lengthwise along the spine. These ribs and the shiny surface of the spines are useful in separating them from similarly shaped, articulate-algal segments



Some samples will contain fragments of the sea urchin shell. Look for diagnostic features.



Examples of some benthic foraminifera you might see in the samples.

Forams are commonly less than a millimeter in diameter, but larger individuals do occur. Benthic forams are more common in shallow, sandy areas, and certain species can be tied to specific environments. Their thicker tests adapt them to life in shifting sands, in contrast to planktonic varieties that have thinner shells to facilitate floating in the water column.











































