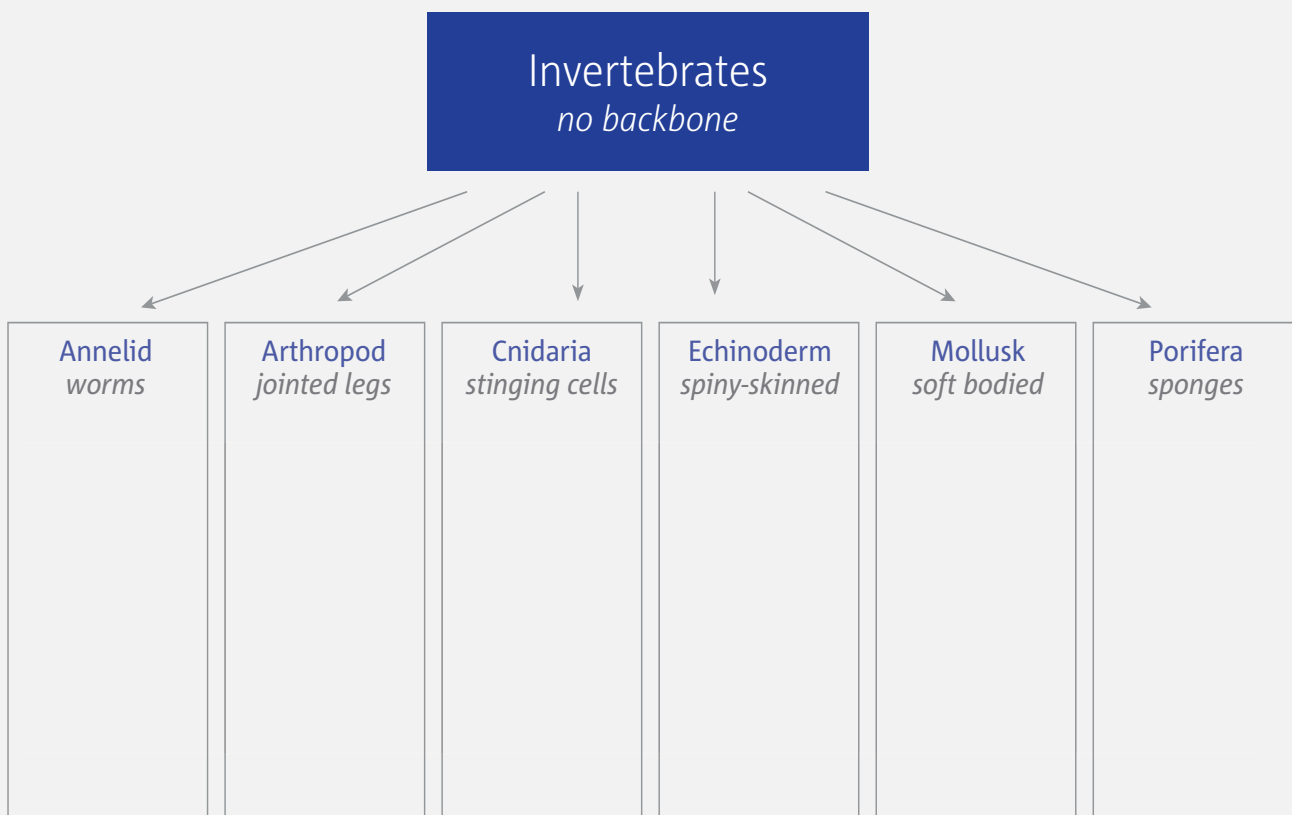
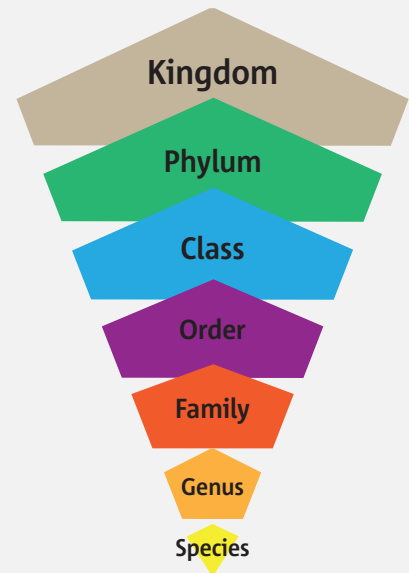


Marine Invertebrates

Scientists use a taxonomic hierarchy to categorize living things and provide structure and organization to what can be a complicated tree of life.

Within the Kingdom Animalia, the marine invertebrates (marine animals that do not have a backbone) are divided into the following six major phyla:

- Annelida
- Porifera
- Cnidaria
- Mollusca
- Arthropoda
- Echinodermata





Fill in the table shown here with information about the remaining marine invertebrate phyla. You will have a chance to experience these invertebrates first-hand when you visit the touch tank at Island Dolphin Care.

Invertebrate Phylum	Annelids	Cnidaria	Mollusca	Porifera	Arthropoda	Echinodermata
Characteristics	Segmented – their body is made up of repeating units Do not have limbs					
Examples	Common Earthworm Leeches					
Threats to organism	Microplastics Ocean Warming					

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Marine Invertebrates

- What animals does the phylum Porifera include, and how advanced are the organisms in this phylum? Why?

- What animals does the phylum Cnidaria include? What type of body does a jellyfish have? An anemone?

- What animals does the phylum Mollusca include? What class has the smartest invertebrates in the world?

- What animals does the phylum Arthropoda include? Where is an arthropod's skeletal system?

- What animals does the phylum Echinodermata include? What is a water vascular system and how does it work?
