Royal BC Museum
675 Belleville Street
Victoria, BC V8W 9W2

Heart Urchin – *Brisaster latifrons* (Bris-az-ter lah-ti-frons)

Also called a sea potato, heart urchins have spines of a variety of colours. These spines are used for movement, including burrowing in the sand. Because they burrow, they are not often seen alive. As they burrow through the sand, they pick out tiny bits of food. They are related to sand dollars.

Limpet with Barnacles – *Tectura scutum* (Teck-two-rah skew-tum) & *Balanus glandula* (Bal-ah-nuss gland-you-lah)

Lots of animals like to live on hard surfaces in the intertidal zone, so free space can be hard to find. Sometimes barnacles attach to other animals, like this limpet. The limpet has a flat shell and a big, strong foot, which helps it hold tight to the rocks. It's extremely difficult for a wave or predator to remove one!

Red Rock Crab – *Cancer productus* (Can-sir pro-duck-tus)

This crab has a hard red shell on the top of its body (the carapace) and large pincers as adults. Their large pincers are used to crush and hold their food, and are so strong that they can crush barnacles! Other animals often live on this crab's shell, like barnacles and sponge or algae.

Purple Hinged Rock Scallop – *Hinnites giganteus* (Hin-eye-tees jye-gan-tee-us)

These scallops are not able to swim like other species of scallops, but the heavy shell is used for protection. The shell has evidence of tiny holes made by other animals, as they use the scallop shell as a place to live, including boring sponges.

Purple Sea Star – *Pisaster ochraceus* (Pie-zas-ter oh-cray-shuss)

Sea stars have water channels in their bodies and use seawater almost like we use blood. They have thousands of tube feet with suction cups that they use to walk around and pry open food like clams.

Gumboot Chiton – *Cryptochiton stelleri* (Cryp-toe-kye-ton stellar-eye)

There are eight plates of this chiton, which provide good armour but also flexibility, allowing the chiton to attach to a wider range of surfaces, whereas the limpet can only attach to flat surfaces. In most chitons, the plates are visible, but the gumboot chiton's plates are covered with a thick leathery skin. It needs little food and has relatively few

predators. It is nocturnal and feeds at night by scraping seaweed off rocks. It is the largest chiton in the world and can live more than 20 years.

Northern Abalone – *Haliotis kamtschatkana* (Hal-eeh-oh-tiss kam-chat-kana)

Abalone are a type of snail. Their oval shaped shell is characterized by a series of small open breathing holes. Abalone are slow to grow and have been over-harvested as a food and for their beautiful interior shell, making it a species at risk in British Columbia.

Sand Dollar – *Dendraster excentricus* (Den-drass-ter ex-sen-trick-us)
When alive, this animal is purple and hairy with flexible bristles that they use to gather and bring food to their central mouths, located on their bottom sides. Their mouth has five tooth-like sections for grinding. They have been known to "chew" their food for up to 15 minutes.

Moon Snail – *Euspira lewisii* (You-spy-ruh lewis-ee-eye)

Moon snails live in soft sediment and have a huge round foot. They prowl around, half buried in sand, looking for clams to eat. When they find clams, they drill a hole into their shell and inject them with a digestive juice that dissolves their flesh.

Hairy Oregon Triton – *Fusitriton oregonensis* (Few-see-try-ton or-eh-gone-en-sis)
The shell of this snail is covered with tough bristles. These possibly make it more camouflaged or difficult for predators like sea stars to eat. The triton is a hungry predator itself, feeding on small clams, barnacles, worms and other snails.

Purple-Ring Topsnail – *Calliostoma annulatum* (cal-ee-oh-stow-mah ann-you-la-tum)

The common name of "topsnail" is because in many species the shell resembles a toy spinning top. In life, the shell is even more colourful with gold and purple. It is an omnivore, feeding on seaweeds as well as almost any invertebrates smaller than it.

Branching Coral – *Stylaster* (Sty-lass-ter)

If you look closely, you can see that the whole surface of this coral is covered in tiny holes. Each of these holes housed a tiny anemone-like creature, called a polyp. All the polyps were joined together as one big colony and grew this tree-like skeleton. The polyps have tiny tentacles with stinging cells that they use to catch tiny plankton as food.

Sponge – *Neoesperiopsis* (Nee-oh-ess-pear-ee-op-sis)

Sponges are super filter feeders. Their bodies are made up of millions of holes and channels, so water can flow right through them and they can filter out tiny food particles and bacteria. This sponge grows on hard surfaces (this was growing on a barnacle) and has a tall body that allows it to reach into higher water flow, so it can filter more water for food. Not many things eat sponges, as they are tough and don't taste very good!