

# NUDIBRANCH COLORING PAGES

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO READ AND DISCUSS BEFORE YOU START ON THE COLORING PAGES

Nudibranchs (nu-dee-brank) are shell-less, marine slugs, also known as “sea slugs”, and most of their lives are spent as a veliger, their first life stage, which is microscopic.

Nudibranchs are almost always found in salt water and range from intertidal zones to over 700m (2,300ft) below sea level. The species of nudibranchs found in the Bay Area are referred to as living in the “Eastern Pacific,” as in the Pacific Ocean.

The region from just north of Pacifica to around Half Moon Bay is revered around the world for its nudibranch abundance and diversity, making our local area of key scientific importance when studying the effects of global climate change on our oceans.

Inside the mouth of the nudibranch is a specialized "tongue" called a radula, it's a ribbon of teeth used for scraping or grasping food.

Nudibranchs also have rhinophores at the front of their body, which is a specialized organ that "smells" chemicals dissolved in the surrounding water and is also used to find food.

Nudibranchs are not only striking and unique animals, but they are also indicators of ocean health and global climate change, and their population numbers and shifting range are being used by scientists to study the effects of global climate change and locally warming oceans.

You can help save these important creatures by preventing pollution from reaching the intertidal zones where these creatures live, as well as reducing our impact on our carbon footprint. **Join the Pacific Beach Coalition for a beach cleanup** and help us keep nudibranchs safe and happy!

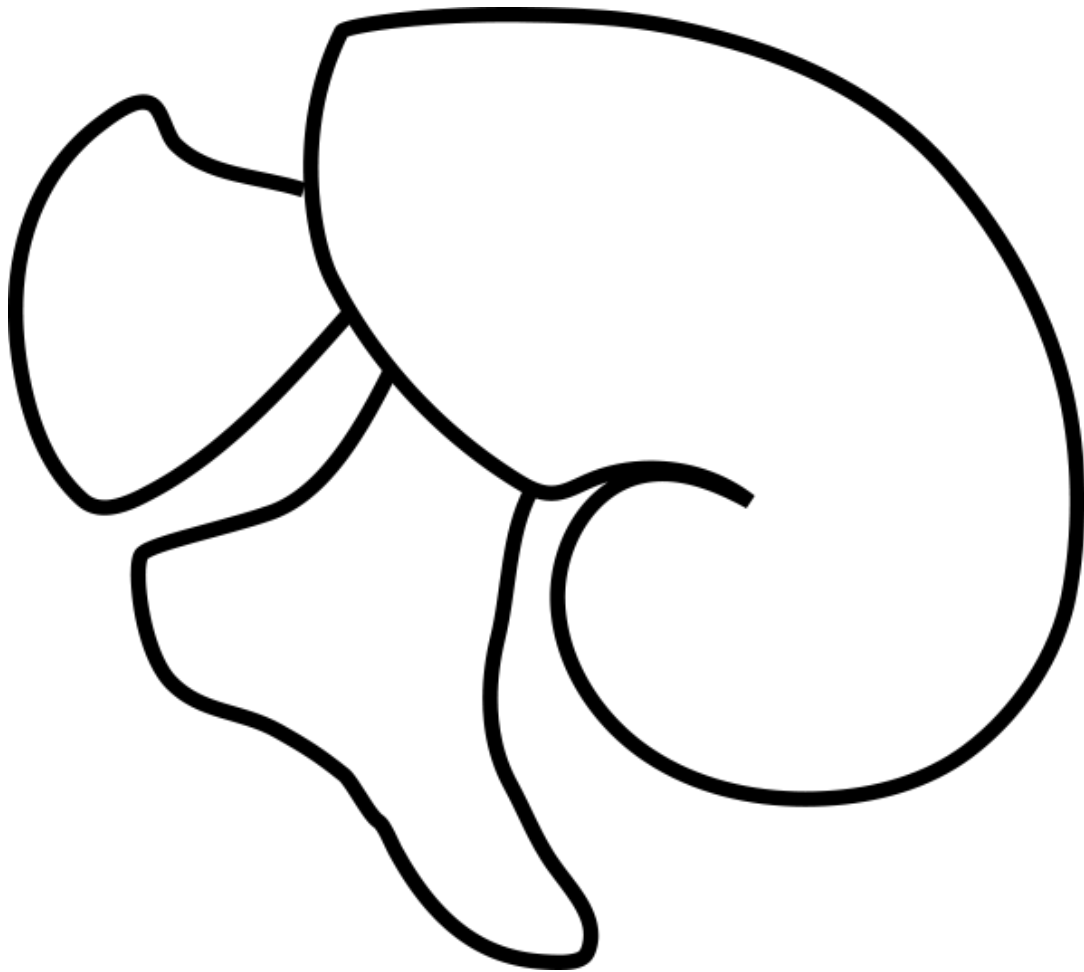
**MORE INFO AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: [WWW.PACIFICBEACHCOALITION.ORG](http://WWW.PACIFICBEACHCOALITION.ORG)**



## Nudibranch Adult

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Veliger, nudibranch larvae

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