

WONDERS OF THE DEEP



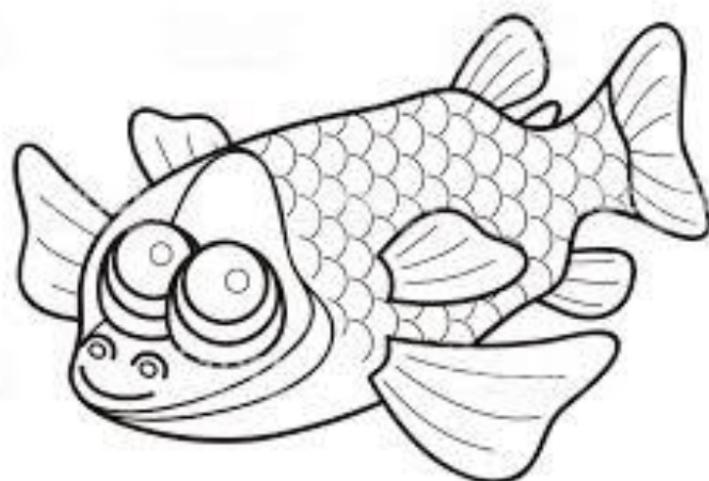
In the depths of the ocean lie millions of creatures: some are curious, some are unusual and some rarely seen with human eyes, some are shy, some mysteriously lurk in the coral waiting to snap up tasty morsels, and some have amazing camouflage, the likes of which we've never seen!

Here are just a few of these amazing creatures and some fascinating facts:

DID YOU KNOW?

The barreleye fish is so-called... Can you guess why?

Because it has barrel-shaped eyes that can watch you from behind! If you've ever heard your teacher say "I have eyes at the back of my head," that's what this amazing fish has. Their bodies are made from a kind of translucent jelly and they can grow up to around 15 centimetres, and live up to 3,000 feet below, in the depths of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans.



See if you can have a go at drawing him!!!



Jellyfish have been around for about 500 million years (a really, really long time!) and they too are made of a jelly-like goo called Mesoglea. The most amazing thing about them is they don't actually have brains, blood, or even a heart like humans do!

They actually can breathe under water through their skin.

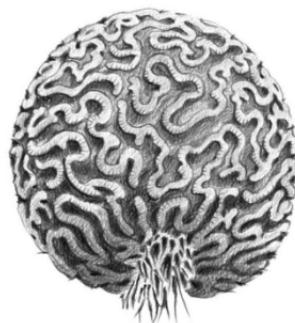
These wonderful creatures can live up to 20 years.

How many tentacles do they have?

Brain Coral

The brain coral may not look like it's alive, but it is as every bit alive as you or I! Brain coral live in the shallow warm waters of coral reefs. The brain coral, like the jellyfish, don't have brains, but that doesn't mean they don't know how to live. In fact, they can live for up to 900 years! That is if we all learn to look after our oceans and not pollute them.

Their favourite cuisine is zooplankton and they can grow up to 6 feet tall, which is about the same as a really tall human!



Vampire Squid

The wonderful and somewhat spooky vampire squid have 8 webbed tentacles and are about 12 inches in length.



Though their arms all have vampire-like suckers, the vampire squid gets its name because their black webbed skin resembles a vampire's black cape and they have big red eyes. In fact, out of the entire animal kingdom, they have the largest eyes compared with the size of its body!

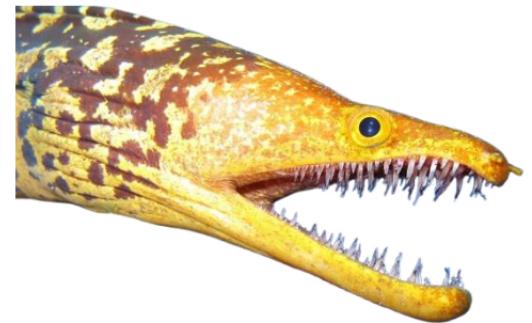
I wouldn't want to meet one in the dark, that's for sure!

They only need to eat twice a week and they lure their prey in by producing their own light to attract the prey and deter predators. Clever huh?!

How long do they live for? Nobody knows!!

Tiger Moray Eel

If you're looking for a rather fierce fellow with lots of teeth, you might be a fan of the tiger moray eel. These fearsome-looking monsters of the deep have tiger-like stripes and love to feed on crustaceans such as shrimp and fish.



Don't disturb them if you ever spot one though, they could give you a nasty bite with those teeth of theirs!

These extraordinary creatures live in fresh waters of west Papua in Indonesia, where the conditions are just right.

Although this is just one type of eel, there are around 200 types of these critters lurking in our oceans around the world.

POP QUIZ!

So can you remember your coral from your jellyfish?!! Time to find out.

1. Which sea creature is found in Indonesia?
2. Why is the Barreleye fish called a Barreleye fish?
3. What sea creatures don't have brains?
4. Which sea creature's favourite food is shrimp and fish?
5. How does the vampire squid attract its predators?
6. How many types of eel are there around the world?
7. What's so special about the vampire squid's eyes?
8. What is the name of a brain coral's favourite thing to snack on?
9. How many years has the jellyfish been around?
10. How long does a vampire squid live for?

ANSWERS

POP QUIZ!

So can you remember your coral from your jellyfish?!! Time to find out.

1. Which sea creature is found in Indonesia?

The Tiger Moray Eel

2. Why is the Barreleye fish called a Barreleye fish?

It has barrel shaped eyes that allow it to see behind itself.

3. What sea creatures don't have brains?

Jellyfish

4. Which sea creature's favourite food is shrimp and fish?

Tiger Moray Eel

5. How does the vampire squid attract its predators?

They produce their own light.

6. How many types of eel are there around the world?

200 types worldwide

7. What's so special about the vampire squid's eyes?

They are red and the largest of any squid.

8. What is the name of a brain coral's favourite thing to snack on?

Zooplankton

9. How many years has the jellyfish been around?

500 million years

10. How long does a vampire squid live for?

Nobody knows!

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