Open your eyes to a world of discovery

Ocean

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Ocean zones

Oceans may be divided into three zones according to how far down sunlight reaches. To see which zones creatures live in, look for the red arrow in the picture below.

**Sunlit zone**
A red arrow pointing to the top area of this picture indicates sea creatures living in the sunlit zone. Sunlight reaches down to about 450ft (150m) deep. Most sea creatures live in sunlit water. Sunlight reaches through shallow seas and the upper waters of the open ocean.

**Twilight zone**
A red arrow pointing to the middle area of this picture indicates sea creatures living in the twilight zone. Light becomes dim below 450ft (150m). The twilight zone reaches from here down to about 3,300ft (1,000m) deep.

**Fishy facts**
- The deepest ocean is the Pacific, followed by the Atlantic, then the Indian. The Arctic is the shallowest of all the oceans.
- Many sea creatures depend on ocean plantlife for their food supply. Plants need sunlight to grow.
- Coral and kelp only grow in sunlit seas.

**Midnight zone**
A red arrow pointing to the lowest area of this picture indicates sea creatures living in the midnight zone. No sunlight reaches below 3,300ft (1,000m), so the midnight zone is pitch black and freezing cold. The deepest parts of the ocean may be more than 13,200ft (4,000m) deep. This far down is known as the abyss. There are also trenches where the ocean is deeper than 19,800ft (6,000m).

Deep-sea hatchet fish have lights along their bellies and tails that glow in the darkness.
The blue planet

Oceans cover more than two thirds of the Earth’s surface. In this vast underwater world, many sea creatures live together, often hidden beneath the waves.

Sea turtles

There are many types of sea creatures, including reptiles such as turtles. These have to rise to the surface to breathe. They breathe air through their nostrils.

Fishing for food

Oceans are a source of food for seabirds, who fly or swim in search of fish.

Gulls swoop down from the sky to scoop up a fishy snack.

Green turtles live in warm waters in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans.

The Pacific Ocean covers more than one third of the Earth’s surface.
**One big ocean**
If you traveled in a boat, you could sail to every ocean and sea because they all join up. It could be said that there is really only one vast ocean.

**Plankton**
The sunlit ocean teems with tiny life forms called plankton. These are a vital food source for many sea creatures.

**Fishy facts**
- The largest areas of seawater are called oceans. The smaller ones are called seas.
- Wind creates waves on the ocean surface. Strong winds make bigger waves.
- All seawater is salty. One of the saltiest seas is the Red Sea.

**From space, Earth looks blue because water covers so much of its surface.**

**Breathing through blowholes**
Whales are mammals. Unlike fish, they cannot breathe underwater. They surface to breathe air through their blowholes. Blue whales are the largest mammals of all.
Swim like a fish!

Fish swim like snakes wriggle. Their bodies form S-shaped curves. Most fish use their tails for the main push forward. A few row themselves along with their fins.

How fish breathe

On land, oxygen is in the air. Water also contains oxygen. Fish gulp water and run it over their gills. Oxygen passes through the gills into the fish's blood.

Super senses

Fish can hear, smell, and taste. They have taste buds in their mouths, fins, and skin.

Safety in schools
Small fish such as saupe often swim in large groups called schools or shoals. There is safety in numbers!
What is a fish?

All fish have fins for swimming and gills for breathing under water. Fish also have their own suits of armor! Most are covered in overlapping scales like tiles on a roof. Some just have extra-tough skin. They are slimy so that they can glide swiftly through water.

How fish breathe
On land, oxygen is in the air. Water also contains oxygen. Fish gulp water and run it over their gills. Oxygen passes through the gills into the fish’s blood.

Super senses
Fish can hear, smell, and taste. They have taste buds in their mouths, fins, and skin. This polka-dot grouper swims head down while prowling for food.

Swim like a fish!
Fish swim like snakes wriggle. Their bodies form S-shaped curves. Most fish use their tails for the main push forward. A few row themselves along with their fins.
Fantastic fish

Fish can be weird and wonderful! They vary in size from tiny seahorses to giant manta rays. Some have unusual shapes that help them to hide or scare off predators.

**Prickly beauty**
Lionfish have striped bodies to warn away other fish. Any predator that bites a lionfish will be pierced by poisonous spines.

**Gentle giants**
The vast, flat bodies of manta rays blend in with the mud and sand of the seabed. Despite their size, manta rays are gentle creatures. They eat mainly plankton.

**Hidden on the seabed**
Stonefish change color to blend in with the seabed. They have spines on their backs for protection. Each spine injects a deadly poison if touched.
Puffed up
When in danger, porcupine fish gulp down water and swell up like balloons. Now they are too large and prickly for most predators to swallow!

Colorful ribbon
Ribbon eels can coil themselves into crevices that seem too small for their long bodies. They have sharp teeth for seizing prey.

Dragon of the sea
Leafy sea dragons live in shallow, seaweedy waters. Here, they avoid predators by looking like seaweed. Their other name is weedy sea dragons.
Jellyfish

Adrift in the oceans since prehistoric times, jellyfish are more than 95% water. They have no brains, bones, hearts, or eyes. Their stinging tentacles act like fishing lines to catch prey.

Ocean drifter

In warmer parts of the world, the Portuguese man-of-war drifts on the surface of the waves. It is held up by a balloonlike float. A relative of jellyfish, its other name is “blue jellyfish”. It catches fish in its long tentacles. These shoot tiny stings into any animal that touches them. People are sometimes stung by a Portuguese man-of-war. The stings are not fatal to people, but they are very painful!

Dinner delivered

Long tentacles trail from the jellyfish’s body. When a small animal swims into them, the tentacles spear it with poisonous stings.

Underwater umbrella

Jellyfish have soft bodies called bells. The bell moves in and out like an umbrella opening and closing. This drives the jellyfish along.
Jellyfish may look like a parachute but they are probably traveling upward!

Ghostly glow
Many jellyfish are nearly transparent. Some also produce their own light, so that they glow in dark water. They may only do this when disturbed.

Up, up, and away
Jellyfish are attracted to light even though they have no eyes. They swim toward the water’s surface. This keeps them within range of food.

Fishy facts

- **invertebrate** Despite their name, jellyfish are not fish. They are invertebrates. An invertebrate is an animal without a backbone.

- **transparent** A transparent animal or object is one that can be seen through.

Ghostly glow
Many jellyfish are nearly transparent. Some also produce their own light, so that they glow in dark water. They may only do this when disturbed.
Sharks are survivors! They have lived in the world’s oceans since prehistoric times. The largest of all fish, they have muscular bodies, good hearing, and a keen sense of smell for sniffing out food.

**Sleek and streamlined**
A strong swimmer, the sandbar shark slices through the ocean at high speed. It swims vast distances, traveling to warmer seas as seasons change.

**Underwater leopards**
Leopard sharks are named for their golden, spotted skin. This is good camouflage on the seabed where they search for their favorite food – clams.

**Weird and wonderful**
Hammerhead sharks have eyes at each end of their unusual, wide heads. This helps them to see more! Hammerhead sharks like to stick together. There may be as many as 100 of them in a school.
Great whites have more than 100 razor-sharp teeth.

World's scariest shark
Great whites are the largest carnivorous fish. Seen as ferocious man-eaters, they have been overhunted and are now rare. In fact, great whites do not hunt humans. If they do bite people, they usually spit them out!
Whales are the largest creatures in the ocean. Like all mammals, they breathe air. Whales take in air through openings called blowholes on their heads. There are two types of whales – baleen whales and toothed whales.

Splashing about
Humpback whales have longer flippers than other whales. They slap their flippers on the water to make loud splashes. This is called flippering!

Swimming lesson
A baby whale is called a calf. Humpback calves swim close to their mothers. It takes time for the calf to become a strong swimmer.
The blue whale is not only the largest whale, but the largest animal of all time.

The biggest dinosaur was only about a quarter of the weight of a blue whale.

Barnacles are small animals with shell-like plates. They often make their homes on whales.

What is a baleen whale?
Humpback whales are baleen whales. Instead of teeth, they have baleen plates. They gulp water and sieve it out through the baleen, trapping tiny animals.

Killer teeth
Killer whales are toothed whales. Small, sharp teeth allow them to grab fish and other prey. Killer whales are also called orcas. They live in social groups called pods.

Leaping out of the water is called breaching.

The big blue
- The blue whale is not only the largest whale, but the largest animal of all time.
- The biggest dinosaur was only about a quarter of the weight of a blue whale.
Dolphins are small, toothed whales. Intelligent and curious, they are friendly toward people. They have even rescued shipwreck survivors and helped them back to shore! Speedy swimmers, dolphins race along with long, low leaps. This is called “porpoising.”

Dolphins stroke each other with their flippers to make friends.

Dolphin talk
Using a language of clicks and squeaks, pods of dolphins find their way around the ocean. They organize fish hunts by sending messages to each other. To stun fish they may make very loud noises!
**Ocean acrobats**
Dolphins can leap high out of the water. They may do this to avoid predators or to herd fish by making loud splashes. Males sometimes leap to impress females.

**Bringing up baby**
Dolphins give birth to one calf at a time. The calf drinks its mother’s milk and grows quickly. Other dolphins may babysit the calf while its mother hunts for fish.

**Fishy facts**
- Dolphins live in groups called pods. These may join together to form a herd.
- There are dolphins in all the world's oceans, except for icy, polar waters.
- If a dolphin is sick or injured, other dolphins may support it with their bodies so that its blowhole is above the surface.

*Curved flippers help dolphins to steer and turn around.*

*Streamlined body slices through the water.*

*The long snout is called a beak.*
Gentle sea cows

In warm, shallow waters, large sea mammals called dugongs and manatees live a peaceful life. They have no natural enemies, eat only plants, and never fight.

Funny face
Like manatees, this dugong has no front teeth! Its teeth grow only along the sides of its mouth. Flippers steer and scoop up food.

Underwater lawnmower
Dugongs and manatees are the only vegetarian sea mammals. They swim slowly, grazing on sea grass.

Dugongs and manatees lived in the oceans during the age of the dinosaurs.

Noises in the night
Dugongs relax during the day and spend most of the night eating. Like manatees, they are noisy eaters. There are loud sounds of chomping teeth and flapping lips!
Motherly love
Dugongs and manatees give birth to only one calf every three to five years. The newborn calf rises to the surface immediately for its first breath of air. It stays with its mother for up to two years, clinging to her or resting on her back.

Fishy facts
- Dugongs have a tail that is pointed at the ends. Manatees have a paddle-shaped tail.
- On meeting, sea cows grab each other’s flippers then put their mouths together to kiss.
- Manatees and dugongs can live for as long as 60 years.
Soaring seabirds

Some seabirds live along the shore. Others fly far out to sea. All return to the shore to nest. Many nest in groups called colonies. They often choose cliffs where eggs and chicks are safe from predators.

In the clouds

A small bird, the Arctic tern flies longer distances than any other bird. It spends most of its life in the air!

Long-distance flights

Albatrosses fly for weeks at a time. With wings outstretched, they glide through the air. They are carried by the wind and hardly need to bother to flap!

Sea parrots

Colorful beaks give puffins the nickname “parrots of the sea.” Large beaks are useful for grabbing lots of sand eels!

Birds with big appetites

Pelicans fly or swim in search of a fishy meal. When they spot fish, they dive down after them. They have stretchy beaks for scooping up lots of fish in one go.
Guillemots are mainly black with white chests and bellies. Flying underwater, guillemots fly in long lines of up to 40 or more birds. They dive deep into the sea to snap up fish. Beating their wings, they fly through the water. Between dives, they rest and preen themselves.

Many seabirds spot fish from the sky then dive down to grab them.

Fishy facts
- Seabirds have special features for life in the water, like webbed feet for swimming.
- Water slides off their oily feathers so that they stay dry.
- Gannets and some other seabirds have extrastrong skulls. This allows them to hit the water fast in pursuit of prey.
Long-distance swimmers
Female green turtles travel to the place where they were born to lay their eggs, then swim back again across the open ocean. With no landmarks to follow, the turtles probably find their way by the positions of the Sun and the Moon.

Fishy facts
- Californian gray whales feed in the Arctic Ocean then travel to warmer waters to breed.
- Arctic terns fly further than other seabirds, from the North Pole to the South Pole and back.
- Barnacles take long-distance rides on turtles and whales.
Ocean travelers

Some sea creatures make amazing journeys, crisscrossing the oceans. They travel to find breeding grounds, food, or safety. This is called migration.

Lobster line up
To escape storms, spiny lobsters walk along the seabed to calmer waters. They march head to tail. This makes it hard for predators to pick out one.

Eels at sea
Eels travel from lakes and rivers to breed at sea. The young eels (elvers) then return to freshwater.

Turtles surface to breathe air through their nostrils.

Broad flippers are used for rowing themselves along.
Octopuses and squid

Fast hunters, octopuses and squid have long “arms” called tentacles for seizing prey. They swim at high speed by squirting jets of water from their baglike bodies. The force drives them along. This is called jet propulsion.

Sucker-studded tentacles
Octopuses feel and taste with their eight tentacles. Each tentacle has rows of suckers. The suckers help them to grip prey and fasten themselves to the seabed.

Octopuses are intelligent with large brains.
Ink attack!
To escape predators, octopuses and squid have a trick up their sleeves. They squirt out a cloud of ink. Hidden in murky water, they make a getaway.

Nighttime prowler
In the daytime, octopuses hide alone in rocky dens. At night they come out to hunt. They try to keep a tentacle on the seabed. If threatened, they can pull themselves back fast.

Speedy retreat
When in danger, octopuses jet off. Their bodies form a torpedolike shape to slice through water. Like squid, they can outswim most predators.

Tentacles trail out behind the body as the octopus takes off.

Shimmering squid
Many squid can produce their own light. They use this light display to signal to each other or lure prey. Fire squid can even flash white, blue, yellow, and red light.

Ink attack!
To escape predators, octopuses and squid have a trick up their sleeves. They squirt out a cloud of ink. Hidden in murky water, they make a getaway.
Different sea creatures may live together in a variety of fascinating ways. Often the arrangement suits both creatures, but sometimes only one benefits.

**Cleaning service**
Fish called cleaner wrasse set up cleaning stations in coral reefs. They eat parasites stuck to larger fish. Their customers wait in line. Even natural enemies put aside their differences!

**Perfect partnership**
Clown fish escape danger by darting into sea anemones. A coat of slime protects the fish and predators dare not follow.

**Boxing gloves**
Boxer crabs carry anemones and wave the stinging tentacles at predators. Anemones eat pieces of food the crabs drop.
Spring cleaning for shells
Surgeonfish such as tangs feed on algae. They sometimes nibble algae growing on turtles' shells. Turtles are glad to be cleaned up!

Food for free
Remora fish attach themselves to larger fish like sharks. They eat fragments of food that drop from their host’s mouth.

Tangs have sharp teeth for nibbling algae.
Down in the depths

No light reaches as far down as the ocean’s midnight zone. Here, strange creatures live in freezing cold and total darkness. They are small so they can survive on little food.

Angling for fish

Angler fish have a long fishing-rod fin with a light at the end. Small fish think that this is food. Lured toward it, they swim into the angler fish’s open jaws.

Fearsome hunter

The viper fish swims with its jaws open. It catches fish with its extra-long, sharp teeth.

Stretchy stomach expands if the fish lures in a big meal.

Mouth has more than 350 lights.

Low life

Parts of the ocean floor look like the surface of the Moon. Here, rattail fish dart in and out of crevices. It’s easy to see how they got their name!
Ugly ogre
The gruesome looks of the fangtooth explain its other name, “ogre fish.” When a fish or shrimp swims past, the fangtooth sucks them into its gigantic mouth.

ALL AGLOW
If you have seen a firefly sparkle on a summer’s evening then you have seen a creature that produces its own light. For fish in the dark depths of the ocean, the light serves a purpose. It helps them to find food or lure prey.

Shining like stars
A bladelike, silvery body gives hatchet fish their name. They have light organs along their bellies and tails.

Large eye helps the fish to spot prey in the dark.

Daggerlike teeth line the fangtooth’s huge jaws.
Life on the seabed

A few seabed animals can survive along the lower seashore. Most live on the deeper seabed where they are always underwater. These creatures often look like plants but they are really animals.

Sponges can grow so big that a person could have a bath in one!

Sponges attach themselves to the seabed.

Seabed chimneys
Sponges come in strange shapes and many colors. They feed by capturing plankton as they pump water through their bodies.
Hungry starfish
Starfish eat mussels and clams, using the suckers on their feet to pull the shells apart. Then they push their stomachs into the gap and eat up their prey.

Starring role
Brittle stars have brittle, easily broken arms. This does not matter because they can grow new ones! Like starfish, brittle stars do not have a brain.

In the slow lane
Sea cucumbers crawl along the seabed at a snail’s pace. They suck in food that sticks to their slimy tentacles.

Fishy facts
- Many seabed animals feel or grasp things with flexible body parts called tentacles.
- The other name for sea slugs is nudibranches.
- Sea slugs eat anemones, corals, sponges, and sometimes even other sea slugs!

Colorful character
This sea slug is called a “Spanish shawl” because it appears to have an orange fringe. The vivid colors of sea slugs warn predators that they are poisonous and taste awful.
Fishy facts

- Coral reefs grow in tropical oceans where sea temperature is never below 68°F (20°C).
- Australia’s Great Barrier Reef is so large that it can be seen from space.
- New coral reefs will often grow on the seabed wrecks of ships and aircraft.
Coral reefs

Coral is built by tiny animals called polyps. Each builds a chalky, cup-shaped shelter to protect its soft body. The reef spreads as young polyps build new shelters on old ones. Different corals form a variety of amazing shapes and colors.

Rose coral
Corals have names that tell you how they look. This coral is like a rose.

Organ pipes
A new layer of coral grows from each tiny pipe of organ-pipe coral.

Brain coral
Brain coral is a grayish color and looks like a human brain!

Sea fans
The treelike forms of these corals sometimes join up in the shape of a fan.

Colorful coral reefs look like underwater gardens.
Life in a coral reef

Coral reefs teem in the daytime with beautiful and bizarre creatures. At night, many retreat into caves to rest. Now a new party begins! Different fish leave their hideouts to look for food.

Underwater angels
With their slim bodies, emperor angelfish can dart in and out of gaps in the coral. Angelfish partners stay together for life.

Sea serpent stories
Tales of man-eating sea serpents once made people wary of eels. Today, divers still tell stories of moray eels gripping them in their toothy jaws. Divers mostly have only themselves to blame. Some poke their hands into coral-reef caves. This can give an eel resting at home an unwelcome surprise!
**Lettuce leaf**
Like other sea slugs, lettuce slugs are related to garden snails. These frilly slugs may look like salad, but their skin produces a slime that tastes revolting.

**Coral reefs offer many hiding places for small fish escaping from larger predators.**

**House-hunting hermits**
Hermit crabs often make their homes inside the empty shells of other animals. They may also move into small caves in the coral reef.

**A twist of the tail**
To anchor themselves, sea horses twist their tails around coral. If an enemy appears, they change color to match their surrounding.

**Sea horses are among the tiniest fish in a coral reef.**

**Slippery as an eel**
Moray eels have slimy, snakelike bodies. They slither into caves and crevices to hide during the day. Their pointed faces peer out from the coral. At night, they hunt for food.
Icy waters

The seas around the North and South poles are partly frozen. Animals that live here have a thick layer of fat, called blubber. This helps to keep them warm.

Coming up for air
Like all mammals, seals breathe air. They gnaw at sea ice with their sharp teeth to keep open air holes for breathing.

Snow-white seal pups
Harp seal pups are born with white fur that camouflages them on the ice. This is useful because they often wait alone for their mothers to return from feeding.

Noisy walruses
Walruses live in large groups around the North Pole. These noisy animals bark, growl, and whistle to each other. They have two long front teeth called tusks.

Polar bears have black skin under their white fur.

A walrus’s tusks can grow up to 3ft (1m) long.
Swimming under ice

Polar bears hunt prey in icy Arctic seas. Their slightly webbed toes help them to swim. They paddle with their front legs and steer with their hind ones. In the snow, creamy fur is perfect camouflage.

Fishy facts

- Harp seal pups drink their mothers’ milk for about two weeks, then find their own food.
- Growing up to 10ft (3m) high, polar bears are nearly twice as tall as a person.
- Polar bears build snow dens to shelter their cubs. They always have twins!
Penguin party

All penguins live south of the Earth’s equator. They have thick fat called blubber to keep them warm in icy waters. Shiny, waterproof feathers prevent their skin from getting wet. They make deep dives to catch fish.

Daring divers
Adélie penguins are the most common South Pole penguins. They dive into the icy water to hunt for fish and squid. Swimming at high speed, they can launch themselves from the water onto the shore.

Fishy facts
- Penguins can dive down to about 870ft (290m), taking them into the twilight zone.
- The emperor penguin is the largest penguin of all.
- Many penguins live in the coldest, windiest place in the world – the South Pole.

Making a splash
Penguins are speedy swimmers, but they have no defense against predators. In water, their dark backs and light-colored bellies act as camouflage. This is known as countershading.
Penguins are birds but they cannot fly. They waddle slowly on land but swim swiftly in the sea.

Dinner is served
Penguin parents feed their chicks fishy snacks until the chicks can hunt for themselves. Emperor penguin chicks have gray, fluffy feathers. Later, they grow black and white feathers like their parents.

Perfect parent
After laying eggs, female king penguins return to the sea. Through the icy winter, the males keep the eggs warm on their feet. When the chicks hatch, their mothers reappear to feed them.

Nursery on the ice
Emperor penguin chicks and adults huddle together in groups of up to 5,000 birds. It is much warmer inside the huddle than outside it. Penguins move around slowly, so that those on the outside have a turn in the middle to warm up!
Roaring sea lions
Sea lions get their name from roaring like lions. They also bark and honk. In the kelp, they search for clams, crabs, fish, and lobsters to eat. They are fast swimmers, with winglike front flippers.

Kelp is a type of giant seaweed, and the largest of all ocean plants.

Super snacks
Kelp attracts schools of small fish. This does not go unnoticed by harbor seals. They can scoop up a good meal, then relax in the canopy of kelp leaves near the water’s surface.
Kingdom of kelp

Hidden under the waves, kelp forests provide food and shelter for a wealth of creatures. A towering kelp plant is like a high-rise apartment, providing homes for sea creatures at every level.

Hanging out in hammocks
Sea otters lie in hammocks of kelp. Their waterproof fur is so thick that their skin never gets wet! They use their stomachs as a table for laying out meals.

Some fish graze on the kelp, while others hunt for prey.

Forest flame
Flame-colored garibaldis have small territories in the kelp. If a neighbor gets too close, the garibaldis confront each other face to face. They wave their tails furiously.

Shady shark
Horn sharks hunt for sea urchins and shellfish at night. Their eyes are sensitive to light, so they sleep during the day in the shade of large kelp leaves.

Kelp is attached to the seabed by rootlike anchors called holdfasts.
Exploring under water

Oceans have yet to be fully explored. They still have secrets to reveal. To survive under water, divers need special clothing and equipment. Today, they can also travel in under water machines called submersibles.

Scuba diving
Scuba (Self-Contained Under-water Breathing Apparatus) allows divers to breathe from tanks of air strapped to their backs.

Bubble trouble
Scuba equipment allows divers to study shallow-water fish in the wild. The problem is that fish like hammerhead sharks are sensitive to the noise made by air bubbles. They may be so scared that they swim away.
Diving machines
Submersibles are the only way to explore the deep ocean. In them, divers have discovered undersea life never seen before. They are protected from the huge pressure of water that occurs at low levels. The submersible Nautilus can dive to nearly 20,000ft (6,000m).

Seabed wrecks
Shipwrecks come to rest on the seabed. Scuba divers can explore them in shallow seas. Here, algae and sometimes coral grow on the wrecks as time passes.

Disaster in the Atlantic
In 1912, the Titanic hit an iceberg and sank on its first-ever voyage. The advent of submersibles meant that the wreck could finally be explored. Nautilus took nearly two hours to reach it.
**Glossary**

**Algae** plants that live in water. They have no roots, stems, or leaves. Seaweed is a sea algae.

**Animal** an animal is any living creature that is not a plant. For example, dolphins, fish, and starfish are animals.

**Antarctic** the cold area around the South Pole, which includes the southern parts of the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific oceans.

**Arctic** the cold area around the North Pole, which includes the Arctic Ocean.

**Baleen** baleen is made of the same material as human fingernails. Some whales have baleen plates instead of teeth.

**Blubber** a thick layer of fat that keeps polar animals and whales warm in cold waters.

**Breeding** when animals give birth to young.

**Camouflage** for animals, this is usually skin coloring that makes them look the same as their surroundings. They are then less likely to be attacked.

**Canopy** the topmost layers of leaves in a forest. Kelp forests have a canopy.

**Carnivore** an animal that eats the flesh of another animal.

**Coast** the border of the land where it meets the sea.

**Continental shelf** the shallow part of the seabed around land that ends in a steep slope to the ocean floor.

**Countershading** this is the effect of having a darker back and paler belly. From above, a dark back blends in with the darkness of the deep sea. From below, a pale belly blends in with the light from the sky.

**Crustacean** a type of animal with jointed limbs. Crabs, lobsters, and shrimp are examples of crustaceans.

**Echinoderms** animals with spiny skins and tubed feet. Sea cucumbers, sea urchins, and starfish are echinoderms.

**Equator** an imaginary line around Earth that is equally distant from the North and the South poles.

**Gills** the part of a fish’s body that absorbs oxygen from water so that fish can breathe under water.

**Holdfast** the rootlike anchors attached to kelp.

**Invertebrate** an animal without a backbone.

**Kelp** a type of giant seaweed.

**Luminous** this describes the effect of giving off light. Some fish have light organs that make them luminous.

**Mammal** a warm-blooded animal that breathes oxygen from the air. Female mammals produce milk to feed their young.

**Mollusc** animals that have a soft body and no backbone. Clams, octopuses, sea slugs, and squid are molluscs.

**Oceanography** the study of the oceans is called oceanography.

**Oxygen** a gas that is found in both air and water. All living things need oxygen to breathe.

**Parasite** an animal that lives in, or on, another animal. A parasite benefits at the expense of the other animal.

**Plankton** tiny plants and animals that live in the ocean. They are food for many other, larger sea creatures.

**Polar region** the area near the North Pole or the South Pole.

**Predator** an animal that hunts other animals for food.

**Prey** an animal that is hunted by other animals for food.

**Scale** a small, thin plate. Overlapping scales protect the skin of fish and reptiles.

**Sea** smaller areas of saltwater are called seas. Larger areas of saltwater are called oceans.

**Species** a group of animals or plants made up of related individuals who are able to produce young with one another.

**Seashore** the land along the edge of seas and oceans.

**Streamlined** a smooth shape that allows some sea creatures to travel faster.

**Submersible** a diving machine for exploring the deep ocean.

**Tentacles** long feelers, like bendable arms, for grasping.

**Territory** an area defended by an animal, or animals, against others of its kind.
Animal alphabet

Every animal pictured in this book is listed here, along with its page number and the parts of the ocean in which it lives.

**Albatross** 22
A seabird with a huge wingspan that spends most of its life over the open ocean.

**Angelfish** 36
Marine angelfish live in coral reefs, such as the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia.

**Angler fish** 30
Deep-sea angler fish live in the twilight and midnight zones of the open ocean.

**Arctic tern** 22, 24
A seabird that flies huge distances to migrate. It breeds in the Arctic summer, then flies south to the Antarctic to avoid the northern winter.

**Boxer crab** 28
A crab that lives in coral reefs, in the tropical seas between the Indian and Pacific oceans.

**Brittle star** 33
An echinoderm that lives on the seabed in the Indian and Pacific oceans.

**Cleaner wrasse** 28
Fish that are widespread through the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and the Red Sea.

**Clown fish** 28
Fish that live in coral reefs among the stinging tentacles of anemones.

**Coral** 5, 34-37, 45
A tiny animal that lives in huge colonies in shallow, tropical seas.

**Coral trout** 28
Fish that live in the Great Barrier Reef.

**Dolphin** 18-19
A mammal that lives mainly in the ocean’s sunlit zone.

**Dugong** 20-21
A mammal that lives in the warm, shallow waters of the Pacific and India oceans.

**Eel, European** 25
**moray** 36, 37
**ribbon** 11
Fish that usually hide in holes in coral reefs during the day and come out to hunt at night.

**Fangtooth** 5, 31
Fish that live in the twilight and midnight zones of tropical and temperate seas.

**Garibaldi fish** 43
Fish that live on the seafloor and on kelp forest floors off the coast of California.

**Guillemot** 23
A seabird that is known as the Northern Penguin. It lives along the shore but dives down to the seafloor.

**Hatchet fish** 5, 31
Fish that live in the twilight and midnight zones of the open ocean.

**Hermit crab** 37
A crab that lives on the ocean floor.

**Jellyfish** 12-13
A group of invertebrates that lives in all zones of the open ocean as well as along the shore.

**Leafy sea dragon** 11
A relative of sea horses that lives in cool, rocky reefs off the south and west coasts of Australia.

**Lesserspotted dogfish** 9
A relative of sharks that lives along the shore in the ocean’s sunlit zone.

**Lettuce slug** 36
A species of sea slug that lives in coral reefs.

**Lionfish** 10
A coral-reef fish.

**Manatee** 20-21
A mammal that lives in warm, shallow waters along the coast, rarely swimming into the open ocean.

**Manta ray** 10
Relatives of sharks, manta rays live in tropical seas all over the world.

**Octopus** 4, 26-27
Molluscs that live in all ocean zones.

**Pelican** 22
A seabird that lives along coastlines.

**Penguin, Adélie** 40
**emperor** 40-41
**king** 41
A seabird that lives in the Antarctic.

**Plankton** 7, 32
Tiny animals that live on or near the surface of all oceans.

**Polar bear** 38-39
A species of bear with a whitish coat that lives in the Arctic.

**Polka-dot grouper** 9
Fish that live in the sunlit zone of warm seas.

**Porcupine fish** 11
Fish that live around coral reefs in the sunlit zone of seas.

**Puffin** 22
A seabird that lives along coastlines.

**Rattail fish** 30
Fish with ratlike tails that live near the seafloor.

**Remora fish** 29
Fish that are parasites and travel with sharks.

**Saupè** 8
Fish that live in the ocean’s sunlit zone.

**Sea anemone** 28
Relative of jellyfish that lives in coral reefs.

**Sea cucumber** 33
An echinoderm that lives on the ocean floor.

**Sea horse** 37
Small fish that live in shallow temperate and tropical seas.

**Sea lion** 42
A mammal that is widespread along coastlines, particularly off the Pacific Ocean.

**Seal, harbor** 42
**harp** 38-39
A mammal that lives in the sunlit zone of oceans and seas near the shore.

**Sea otter** 43
A mammal that lives on rocky Pacific Ocean coasts.

**Sea slug** 33
A mollusc that lives on the ocean floor.

**Sea sponge** 32
A sponge that lives in deep and shallow seas.

**Shark, great white** 15
**hammerhead** 14, 44
**horn** 43
**leopard** 14
**sandbar** 14
Fish that live in the ocean’s sunlit zone. (Horn sharks live in kelp and caves on the seafloor.)

**Spiny lobster** 25
A crustacean that lives in caves and crevices on rocky reefs in the western-Atlantic Ocean, from Brazil to Bermuda.

**Squid** 4, 26-27
Relatives of cuttlefish and octopuses that live in all ocean zones.

**Starfish** 33
An echinoderm that lives on the seabed and shore.

**Stonefish** 10
Fish that live in shallow, tropical seas of the Indian and Pacific oceans.

**Surgeonfish** 29
Coral-reef fish.

**Turtles, green** 6, 24-25, 29
Plant-eating reptiles that live in warm waters of the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific oceans.

**Viper fish** 30
Fish that live in the ocean’s twilight and midnight zones.

**Walrus** 38
A mammal that lives in the Arctic.

**Whale, blue** 7, 17
**humpback** 16-17
**killer** 17
A mammal that lives in the open ocean.