

IN THE SEA FROM A-Z



TAKE A JOURNEY OF
FACT-FILLED FUN TO DISCOVER
IN THE SEA
FROM  -Z

IN THE SEA FROM A-Z

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Extras: Glossary of New Words, Maze, Wordsearch, Quiz & Draw Your Favorite Sea Creature!

GLOSSARY OF NEW WORDS

Aperture: an opening, hole, or gap.

Bioluminescence: the biochemical emission of light by living organisms such as glow-worms and deep-sea fish.

Detritus: waste or debris of any kind

Diatom: algae with a single-cell and a wall made of silica.

Gastropod: a large class of mollusc.

Invertebrate: an animal lacking a backbone.

Migration: seasonal movement of animals from from region to another.

Operculum: a structure that closes or covers an aperture.

Opportunistic Feeder: an animal that feeds on whatever it can find or stumbles upon.

Pelagic: relating to the open sea.

Phytoplankton: plankton consisting of microscopic plants.

Planktonic: small and microscopic organisms drifting or floating in the sea or freshwater, consisting chiefly of diatoms, protozoans, small crustaceans, and the eggs and larval stages of larger animals.

Teleost: a fish of a large group that comprises all ray-finned fishes apart from the primitive bichirs, sturgeons, paddlefishes, freshwater gar fishes, and bowfins.

Zooxanthellae: tiny algae that lives with the coral polyps and uses sunlight to make sugar for energy.

A is for Anemone



Fast Facts

Region: Oceans throughout the world

Diet: Shrimp, fish, and other small animals

Size: Less than 1 inch up to 5 feet across

Lifespan: Up to 50 years

Also known as the *Sea Anemone*, this sea creature has a soft, thick body with several tentacles it uses to capture food. There are around 1,000 different species of Anemone that come in several different colors including red, blue, yellow, and orange. Anemones rarely move and are usually attached to something solid like a rock.



Think About This...

The Anemone is mostly water. The tentacles circle its mouth.

B is for Blowfish



Fast Facts

Region: Tropical and Subtropical waters

Diet: Algae, shrimp, corals, crabs, sponges

Size: Up to 3 feet

Lifespan: 90

Also known as a Pufferfish, this sea creature can inflate itself with water and air into a ball to avoid being eaten by predators. A species of Blowfish (*Porcupine Fish*) also has pointed spines all over its body. The Blowfish's body also contains toxins, so if it is gobbled up, the hungry predator is in for a nasty tummy ache.



Think About This...

There are enough toxins in one Blowfish to kill 30 adult humans!

C is for Coral



Fast Facts

Region: All over the world. However, most grow in shallow, clean ocean water on either side of the equator.

Diet: Zooxanthellae

Size: Up to 1,429 miles long

Lifespan: Up to 5,000 years

Corals may look like colorful rocks but they are actually made up of living creatures called coral. Hard corals grow by secreting calcium carbonate underneath their bodies. This turns into a hard, rock-like structure upon which other coral larvae can settle. Over time, as the calcium carbonate builds up and corals reproduce, the size of a coral reef grows.



Think About This...

Coral comes in many different colors (red, purple, green, blue) and many different shapes!

D is for Dugong



Fast Facts

Region: North coast of Australia, shallows of Indian ocean, Western Pacific ocean

Diet: Sea grasses

Size: Up to 10 feet long and over 880 pounds

Lifespan: 60 to 70 years

Dugongs spend their entire life in the sea and only come to the surface to breathe. The Dugong is closely related to the elephant. This sea mammal can live up to 70 years and are considered adults when they are between 9 and 17 years old. They have a tail like a whale and flippers.



Think About This...

Dugongs do not have a top fin but they do have a wide flat nose, small eyes, and small ears!

E is for Eel



Fast Facts

Region: Freshwater and saltwater seas

Diet: Live food such as fish, worms, crayfish, and small waterfowl

Size: 1 to 6 feet (or more) and up to 143 pounds

Lifespan: 5 to 20 years

True Eels are considered *Teleost* fish. They have long narrow bodies similar to a snake. This sea creature only has a tail fin and a long underbelly fin. Most eels prefer to live in shallow water or on the bottom of the sea, sometimes in holes. There are about 800 species of Eel.



Think About This...

A Cusk Eel was captured from 27,460 feet below the surface of the sea!

F is for Flounder



Fast Facts

Region: Oceans all over the world

Diet: Zooplankton, crustaceans, and smaller fish

Size: Up to 22 pounds

Lifespan: Up to 14 years

There are around 340 different species of Flounder. This flatfish hangs out on the bottom of the ocean waiting for its prey to come by. Some Flounder blend in perfectly with their surroundings. Because this fish is a bottom-dweller, its eyes are on the same side of its body.



Think About This...

Baby Flounders look like normal fish. They grow into their flattened-shape!

G is for Giant Squid



Fast Facts

Region: All the world's oceans

Diet: Fish, shrimp, and other squids

Size: About 43 feet long and over 600 pounds

Lifespan: Up to 5 years

The Giant Squid has 10-inch diameter eyes. These beach ball-sized peepers help them see in the deep dark ocean habitat. The Giant Squid has 8 arms and 2 long whip-like tentacles. These bring food to its beak-like mouth. These creepy creatures live in depths from 1,000 to 2,000 feet.



Think About This...

Giant Squid females lay eggs in sacs that can weigh up to 11 pounds!

H is for Humpback Whale



Fast Facts

Region: All oceans around the world

Diet: Krill and pelagic fish

Size: Up to 60 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 80,000 pounds

Lifespan: 80 to 90 years

The Humpback Whale is a mighty eater consuming around 3,000 pounds of food each day. Male Humpbacks create songs that can be heard from 20 miles away. This whale got its name from the big hump on its back. This active aquatic creature can be seen breaching out of the water, slapping the surfacing with their fins and tails, and twirling underwater.



Think About This...

Humpback Whales have the longest migration. They can travel up to 16,000 miles!

I is for Irukandji



Fast Facts

Region: Tropical Australian waters

Diet: Zooplankton

Size: Less than 1 inch long

Lifespan: 5 years

The Irukandji is a species of *Box Jellyfish*. It is one of the smallest and most venomous jelly in the world. This species has stingers on its tentacles and its bell. One sting from an Irukandji is 100 times as potent as that of a cobra and 1,000 times stronger than a tarantula.



Think About This...

Irukandji is transparent and has 4 tentacles - one attached to each "corner" of its bell.

J is for Jawfish



Fast Facts

Region: Warmer parts of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans

Diet: Opportunistic feeder

Size: 4 inches up to 20 inches long (depending on species)

Lifespan: Up to 5 years

The Jawfish got its name from its HUGE mouth. There are 60 different species of this unique fish. Adults construct burrows on the ocean floor. They stabilise the structure with bits of shells and small rocks. When the Jawfish feels threatened it will fill its mouth with sand and spit it at the intruder.



Think About This...

Males incubate the eggs inside their mouths. They are called mouth-brooders.

K is for Krill



Fast Facts

Region: Oceans around the world

Diet: Algae and phytoplankton

Size: 2.5 inches long

Lifespan: 10 years

Krill are shrimp-like crustaceans that are a food source for many sea creatures. They have a hard exoskeleton that is shed many times as they grow, The body of the Krill is see-through and they have many legs that they use to swim and gather food.



Think About This...

Most Krill have bioluminescence on the underside of their bodies!

L is for Lobster



Fast Facts

Region: All the world's major seas

Diet: Clams, fish, crabs, mussels, sea urchin, and mussels

Size: Up to 4 feet and 40 pounds

Lifespan: Up to 100 years

Lobsters have 5 pairs of legs. Their hard bodies can be orange, greenish-brown, and even purple. The eyes of the Lobster stick up from its head on moveable stalks. This creature also has 2 antennae and the body is covered in sensors that help them find food.



Think About This...

If the lobster loses a leg or claw they can regrow a new one!

M is for Manta Ray



Fast Facts

Region: Tropical waters usually around coral reefs

Diet: Planktonic organisms

Size: Up to 29 feet and 2,900 pounds

Lifespan: At least 40 years

There are only 2 species of the Manta Ray. These creatures have large flattened bodies with flapping triangular wings. Each Manta Ray has its own unique pattern of colorations. It consumes food through a BIG rectangular mouth.



Think About This...

Manta Rays can dive to depths of 1,600 feet!

N is for Nudibranch



Fast Facts

Region: Seas worldwide

Diet: Sponges, anemones, corals, sea slugs, and fish eggs

Size: From microscopic up to 12 inches (depending on the species)

Lifespan: Up to 1 year

There are over 3,000 species of Nudibranch. These slug-like critters come in a variety of amazing colors and patterns. The color depends mainly on their diet. They live on or near the bottom from depths of 30 to 6,500 feet.



Think About This...

Nudibranchs have limited vision. They can only see light and dark!

O is for Octopus



Fast Facts

Region: Oceans around the world

Diet: Clams, crabs, small fish, and even other octopus

Size: From 2 inches up to 18 feet

Lifespan: Around 5 years (depending on species)

There are 300 different species of the Octopus. Each species possesses 8 tentacles with suction cups on them. Octopus are solitary creatures. Some will build underwater dens by placing rocks with their powerful arms. Others use camouflage to blend in with their environments.



Think About This...

The largest species of the Octopus can have 30-foot-long tentacles!

P is for Porpoise



Fast Facts

Region: Seas and oceans north of the equator

Diet: Fish, squid, and small octopus

Size: Up to 7 feet long

Lifespan: Over 10 years

There are only 6 species of the Porpoise. They are the smallest members of the whale family. Porpoises are mammals and need to come to the surface to breathe. They do this through a single "nostril" (blowhole) at the top of their heads.



Think About This...

Porpoises have shorter, more rounded snouts than their dolphin cousins!

Q is for Queen Conch



Fast Facts

Region: Bermuda and the Gulf of Mexico

Diet: Algae, grasses, and diatoms

Size: 12 inches long

Lifespan: 30 years

There are about 65 species of conches. This marine gastropod lives in warm ocean waters amongst the sea grass. The Queen Conch has a spiral-shaped shell and long eye stalks. This sea creature propels itself forward on the ocean floor in a leaping motion using its pointed, sickle-shaped operculum.



Think About This...

The Queen Conch lays eggs in long, gelatinous strands!

R is for RockFish



Fast Facts

Region: North Pacific Ocean (Southern California to Kyushu Island, Japan and the North Atlantic)

Diet: Crab, shrimp, fish, and invertebrates

Size: Up to 3 feet long

Lifespan: From 11 to over 200 years

There are more than 100 species of Rockfish. They got their name from the way they like to hide among the rocks to hunt for prey. They can be found in water depths from 40 feet all the way down to 2,000 feet. Some Rockfish are loners, while others like to hang out in schools.



Think About This...

These fish are Ovoviviparous! That means they give birth to live young, not eggs.

S is for Sea Sponge



Fast Facts

Region: All marine waters from tropical to polar

Diet: Plankton, bacteria, and detritus

Size: From 1 inch up to 6 feet

Lifespan: Thousands of years

Sea Sponges are the world's simplest animals. However, they do not have any eyes, ears, noses, or mouths. They spend their entire lives rooted in one spot. Their bodies are full of tiny holes called "pores." Sea Sponges filter water through these pores while collecting small bits of food.



Think About This...

Sea Sponges have been around for about 600 million years!

T is for Toadfish



Fast Facts

Region: Warm seas

Diet: Crabs, small fish, mollusks, and crustaceans

Size: Up to 16 inches

Lifespan: Up to 24 years

There are 80 species of this bottom-dwelling fish. They got their name because they resemble a toad. The species is a heavy fish with a broad, flattened head, and a BIG mouth full of sharp teeth. Some Toadfish have scales and some do not. This fish may bite if touched.



Think About This...

The Toadfish makes audible grunting or croaking sounds!

U is for Unicornfish



Fast Facts

Region: Tropical Indo-Pacific

Diet: Algae and Zooplankton

Size: Up to 24 inches

Lifespan: 40 to 45 years

This magical-sounding fish is actually a saviour to coral. Unicornfish have a mouth perfectly suited to removing the damaging algae from the corals. Some species of the Unicornfish have a small horn on their heads. They also have razor-sharp spines on either side of their tails.



Think About This...

The horn of this species begins to grow when the baby reaches 5 inches long!

V is for Viperfish



Fast Facts

Region: Tropical and temperate waters at around 9,000 feet

Diet: Fish, fish eggs, algae, squid, and crustaceans

Size: Up to 12 inches long

Lifespan: Up to 30 years

The Viperfish is a creepy deep-sea creature with teeth so long they don't fit within its mouth. In fact, they can curve over the fish's head. They hunt by swimming quickly toward their prey and impaling them with these sharp chompers.



Think About This...

Because these fish live so deep in the sea they have bioluminescence on their bodies. This helps them attract prey!

W is for Weedy Seadragon



Fast Facts

Region: Australian coastal waters

Diet: Tiny lice, sea worms, and crustaceans

Size: 18 inches

Lifespan: Up to 7 years

The Weedy Seadragon is not a strong swimmer and relies on its "leafy" camouflage to protect it from predators. It likes to hang out in pairs and is closely related to the seahorse. The Weedy Seadragon has a tube-like mouth it uses to suck its food up.



Think About This...

The male carries the eggs. The young can look after themselves immediately after they hatch!

X is for Xiphosura



Fast Facts

Region: Gulf coasts from Maine to Mexico

Diet: Small clams, worms, crustaceans, and algae

Size: 24 inches long and 12 inches wide

Lifespan: Up to 20 years

Xiphosura is also known as the Horseshoe Crab. This species hasn't changed in over 200 million years. It is in the spider family and is the only arachnid that lives in the sea. Members of the Xiphosura live on the sandy bottoms at about 100 feet below the surface.



Think About This...

Every time the Xiphosura grows, it sheds its shell!

Y is for Yellow Tang



Fast Facts

Region: Pacific Ocean and off the coast of Florida

Diet: Algae and other marine plants

Size: Up to 7 inches long

Lifespan: Up to 30 years

This brilliantly-colored fish is not only a favorite for home aquariums, it is also a favorite of both corals and turtles - Yellow Tangs eat the damaging algae growing on these sea creatures. These fish also have scalpel-like spines near their tails for protection.



Think About This...

Yellow Tangs are aggressive fish!

Z is for Zooplankton



Fast Facts

Region: Water bodies all over the world

Diet: Bacteria and algae

Size: 0.07 inches long

Lifespan: 1 month

There are over 10,000 aquatic species of Zooplankton. Some of these tiny critters have clear shells to avoid being eaten. Zooplankton is the main diet of many fish and sea creatures. Some species have many tiny legs they use for swimming and skittering along the surface of corals and sea plants.



Think About This...

Zooplankton have a transparent brain and 6 tiny pigmented eyes!

**HELP OUR FISH
FIND HIS WAY OUT OF
THE MAZE!**



FIND A "SEA" WORD SEARCH!

N F B L Q Y F F I S H R Q O J L N L Y Z
F T U U P B O A N S T W K V M B F A H A
Y H O P O V X V B I B T S V V H P M G D
F G Y C Y A J G M A Z K E H G G O Q M G
E U N I C O R N F I S H A F R T W W Y R
G Q H O M V Q I E R W Z V V T S S K E R
V W J U Y N S D Q X G D L O R H O L K K
I X A R B P C E O I S Q B H D U L E P J
P C Z T K P B A A P L L H X E E N E Z N
E O R N E E U V F H O K U X W C S I H R
R O K E L R Z Y W O E D A D P Q W F P M
F M K M A I M U F S L Z Q X T E A C N H
I D B G I T W V G U I F J D O O Q O U A
S B U L V U U L C R C C Y N Y P T O Y G
H W U L W D H R L A F B O Q J K M C Y S
D U G O N G G C E W M C V R N C Z E P O
K Y K W Y S R P L S K H C A A L O A V F
L L W A A R A O Y A K V L X S L R N A U
D O T F P T S C Y N M P R O F H S S X C
D A B T N S S H L R O S X Q P R Q Q K E

UNICORNFISH, SEA, WATER,
XIPHOSURA, CORALS,
CREATURES, DUGONG,
VIPERFISH, BOTTOM DWELLER,
OCEANS, FISH, CLAMS, GRASS,
PLANKTON

TAKE THE IN THE SEA QUIZ

- 1. Which fish can make a grunting or croaking sound?**
- 2. What is Zooplankton?**
- 3. Which fish is the favorite for home aquariums?**
- 4. Which sea creature can live up to 5,000 years?**
- 5. Which fish "puffs up" to protect itself?**
- 6. What does migration mean?**
- 7. How do Viperfish attract prey?**
- 8. What 2 special features does the Unicornfish possess?**
- 9. Which sea creature can be found at depths up to 6,500 feet?**
- 10. How long can an Octopus's tentacles get?**

HOW DID YOU DO?

10 OUT OF 10 - YOU'RE SEA-TASTIC!

5-9 - TAKE ANOTHER "SWIM" AROUND!

**0-4: YOUR KNOWLEDGE
MAYBE SEA-SICK!**

DRAW YOUR FAVORITE SEA CREATURE!