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# INTRODUCTION

More than 70 per cent of our planet is covered in seawater, and our oceans contain millions of amazing creatures. Join us to find out about the most fascinating and creepy creatures, and learn which is the weirdest of them all.

We've ranked the world's strangest ocean beasts to find out about...

- ☆ Their crazy skills
- ☆ Their bizarre habits
- ☆ Their jaw-dropping looks

In this book, you're about to meet:

- ☆ The biggest animal that the world has ever known
- ☆ A creature with eyes on the end of its arms
- ☆ A colour-changing master of disguise
- ☆ A fish wearing lipstick
- ☆ The fashion designer of the sea

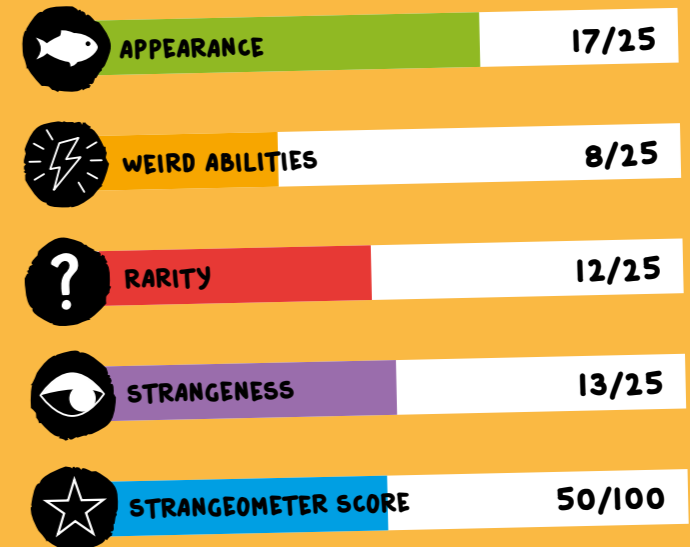
... and many more!

# STRANGEOMETER

The creatures in this book are all unique in their own ways, so we've used a special strangeometer to rank them against each other. This is made up of four categories with a mark out of 25 for each.

These categories are...

## STRANGEOMETER



### APPEARANCE



This considers how stunning the ocean creature looks.

### WEIRD ABILITIES



What unusual skills does the creature have that make it stand out from the crowd?

### RARITY



How likely are you to encounter this creature? Some are very rare indeed!

### STRANGENESS



What is the 'wow factor' for this underwater creature?

### STRANGEOMETER SCORE



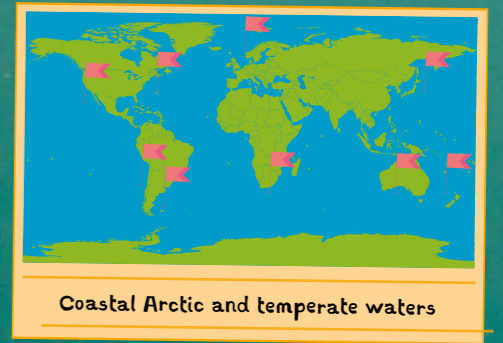
These are added up to get a strangeometer score out of 100!

# #40

The basking shark is covered in a very smelly slime which can rot fishing nets.

Although it usually swims slowly, the shark can jump completely out of the water, probably to try to get rid of parasites on its skin.

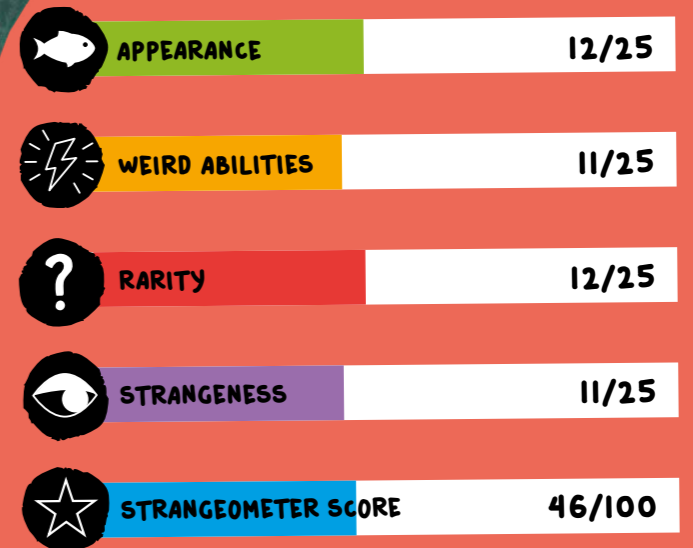
I CAN FILTER 2,000 TONNES OF SEAWATER AN HOUR. GULP!



## BASKING SHARK

The big-mouthed basking shark is the second-biggest fish in the seas, however it survives by eating some of the ocean's smallest creatures: plankton.

### STRANGEOMETER



# QUIZ

See if you can answer these questions on the ten ocean beasts you've just learned about!

1.

How do flamingo tongue snails eat?

2.

What is this creature?



3.

How can you tell a narwhal's age?

4.

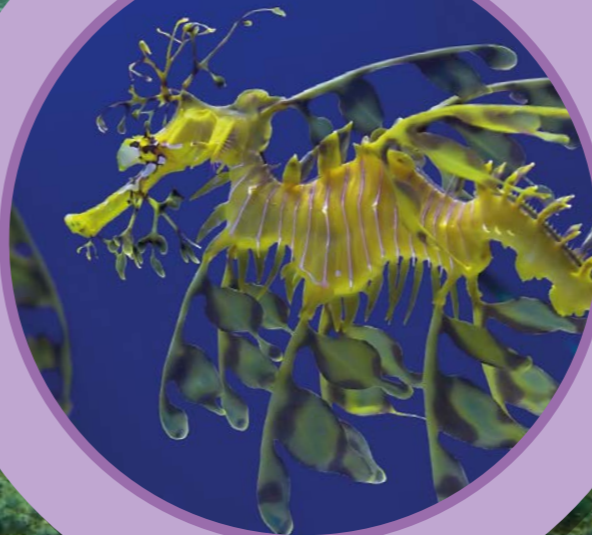
What do Christmas tree worms do when startled?

5.

Where do parrotfish sleep?

9.

What is this fish?



8.

How long are Portuguese man-of-war tentacles?

10.

What do handfish do with their 'hands'?

6.

How do decorator crabs attach things to their shells?

7.

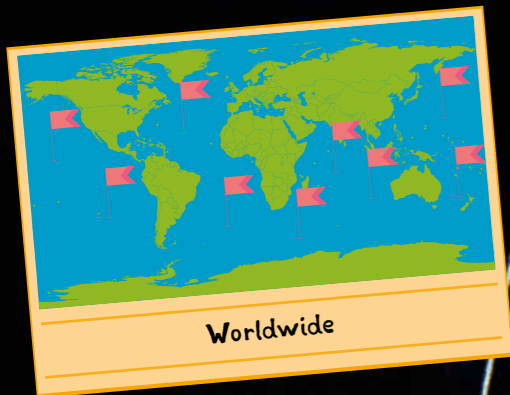
What colour is horseshoe crab blood?

## ANSWERS

1. WITH THEIR FEET 2. HAGFISH 3. BY ITS COLOUR 4. POP BACK INTO THEIR BURROWS 5. IN A COCON MADE OF THEIR OWN MUCUS 6. WITH HOOKED HAIRS 7. BLUE 8. UP TO 50M (164FT) 9. LEAFY SEADRAGON 10. WALK WITH THEM

# #9

SCIENTISTS ARE STUDYING ME TO HELP FIGHT DISEASES.

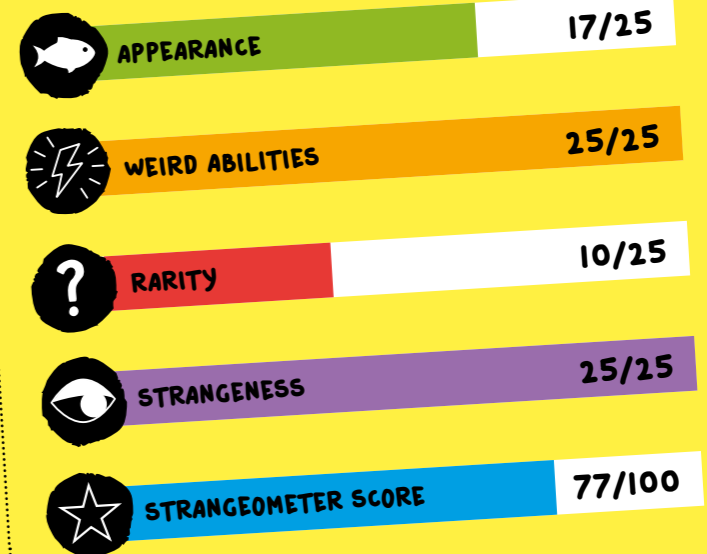


# IMMORTAL JELLYFISH

This tiny jellyfish can live backwards. It can revert from its adult form back to its juvenile polyp form. This means that if it doesn't get eaten, become ill, or have an accident, it could potentially live forever.

Immortal jellyfish are only 4.5mm (0.2in) long.

## STRANGEOMETER



Adult immortal jellyfish only go back to its juvenile state in an emergency, such as when there is not enough food.

# #3

## GOBLIN SHARK

The alien-looking goblin shark can slide its jaws forward to catch its prey. Its snout can sense movement, which helps it to zero in on nearby fish.

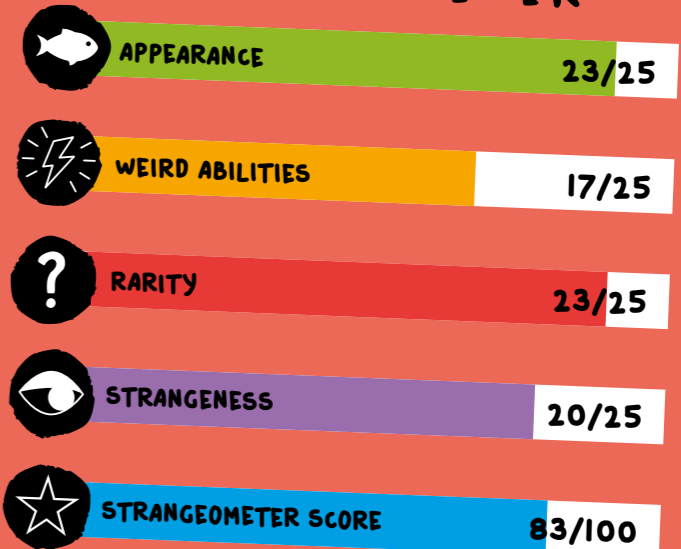


I'M SOMETIMES CALLED THE VAMPIRE SHARK BECAUSE I AVOID THE LIGHT.

Goblin sharks aren't often seen – they live in very deep waters, more than 0.6 miles (1 km) down. Even if you could swim that far down, the shark probably wouldn't see you because its eyesight is very poor.

The goblin shark has been called a 'living fossil' because it is related to a family of sharks that were around 125 million years ago.

### STRANGEOMETER



# #2

To pretend to be a lionfish, the mimic octopus can change colour and shape its eight legs to look like spines.

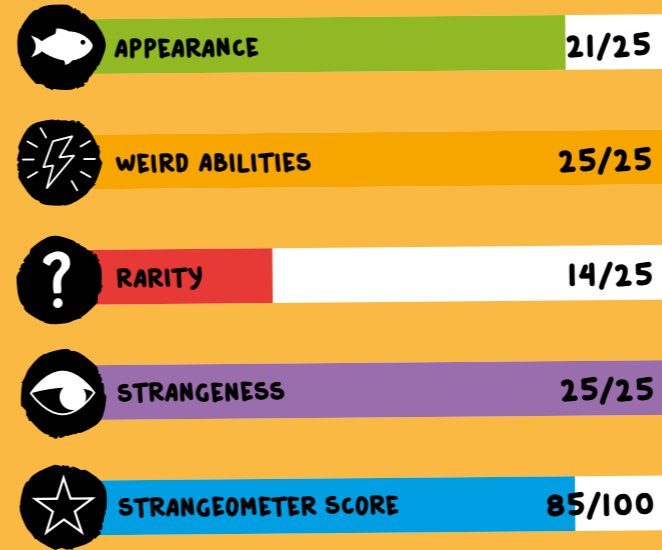


I WAS ONLY DISCOVERED IN 1998.

## MIMIC OCTOPUS

If the ocean had Oscars, the mimic octopus would win them all. If it is being attacked it can change the way it looks and pretend to be other sea creatures, such as lionfish, sea snakes, starfish or jellyfish.

### STRANGEOMETER



Scientists have discovered 15 different disguises of the octopus, including the squid.



Indo-Pacific region

To look like a scary sea snake, the master of disguise hides in a hole and pokes out two of its legs, which it places in opposite directions.

# #1

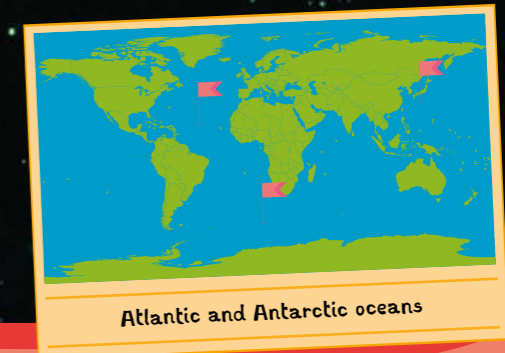
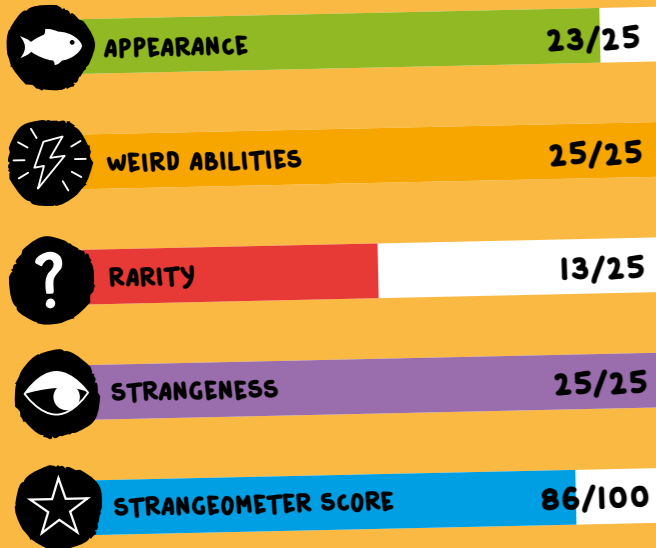
SOME OF US CAN GROW UP TO 1M (3.3FT) IN LENGTH. DON'T HAVE NIGHTMARES!

# ANGLERFISH

This creepy-looking creature mostly lives at the bottom of the deep, dark Atlantic and Antarctic oceans, and it has some super-weird habits.

A piece of the female anglerfish's spine hangs over her head, like a fishing pole with a tasty worm attached. The tip of the pole glows in the dark to attract smaller prey and lure them into the anglerfish's mouth.

## STRANGEOMETER



Male anglerfish are much smaller than females. When they find a female they latch on to her with their sharp teeth and stick to her, losing their eyes and most of their internal organs. Females can carry six or more males on their bodies.



# QUIZ

See if you can answer these questions on the ten ocean beasts you've just learned about!

1.

What temperature does the pistol shrimp's claw snap produce?

3.

Why are many Greenland sharks almost blind?

2.

What is this creature?



4.

What is thought to be the only squid that can see in colour?

6.

Why is it easy to take a picture of a clown frogfish?

5.

How big is the Japanese spider crab?

7.



What is this fish?

8.

What is the goblin shark's nickname?

9.

What does the female angler fish use to attract food?

10.

How many disguises does the mimic octopus have?

## ANSWERS

1. MORE THAN 4,000 DEGREES CELSIUS (7,000 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT)
2. IMMORTAL JELLYFISH 3. IT HAS PARASITES LIVING IN ITS EYES
4. THE FIREFLY SQUID 5. ABOUT 4M (13FT) ACROSS 6. BECAUSE THEY STAY VERY STILL 7. RED-LIPPED BATFISH 8. THE VAMPIRE SHARK
9. A FISHING POLE ON HER HEAD 10. AT LEAST 15

# GLOSSARY

algae	very small organisms (living things) which look like plants and grow in or near water
colony	a group of animals of the same type living or growing together
coral	a marine animal which stays in one place under the sea and forms a hard rock-like substance
fang	a large pointed tooth
fossil	the remains of an animal or plant, preserved in rock after millions of years
gill	the body part of a fish or marine creature which it uses to breathe
mammal	warm-blooded animals that breathe air; the females have glands that produce milk for their young
Middle Ages	the period of history between about 500 and 1500 AD
mollusc	an animal with no spine and a soft body, often covered in a shell
mucus	the slimy liquid that is produced by the nose
organ	a part of the body
organism	a living thing
parasite	an organism which lives on and feeds off another organism
plankton	really really small plants and animals which float in the sea
polyp	a simple tube-shaped water organism
predator	an animal which hunts and eats other animals
prey	an animal which is hunted and eaten by another animal
quill pen	a pen made from the feather of a goose or other bird, used in the past
species	a type of animal or plant with similar characteristics
subtropical	the areas which are immediately north or south of the tropics (see tropical)
temperate	a temperature which is neither very hot nor very cold
tentacle	a long thin arm-like part of an animal's body used for catching food, moving around or defence
tropical	relating to the tropics, which is the area on either side of the Equator, the imaginary line around the centre of the Earth
vertebrate	a creature with a spine