Animals in the Sea



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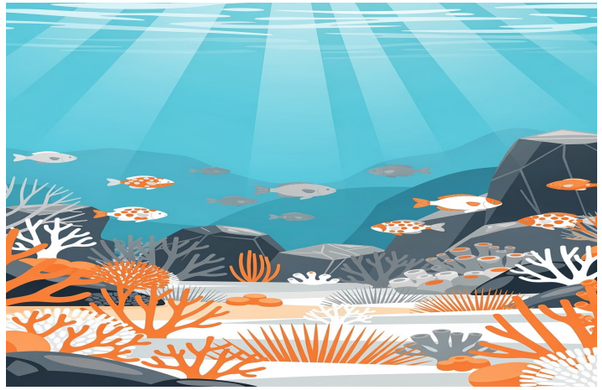
The sea is an amazing place, full of wonderful creatures!

From tiny fish to enormous whales, the ocean is home to thousands of different animals.

Some live near the surface where the water is warm and bright.

Others live in the deep, dark parts of the ocean.

Today, we're going to discover what makes sea animals so special and how they live in their watery world.



Talk with an adult: What animals can you think of that live in the sea?

What is The Sea

The Sea Is Enormous

The sea is a vast area of salty water that covers most of our planet. It's much, much bigger than any lake or river. The sea connects to oceans all around the world, creating one huge watery home for millions of animals.



Deep and Shallow

In some places, the sea is shallow - you could walk through it! In other places, it's incredibly deep - deeper than the tallest mountains are high. Different animals live at different depths, depending on what they need to survive.



Talk with an adult: Have you ever visited the seaside? What was the water like?

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Life Under the Water

Beneath the waves, there's a whole world we can't always see from above!

The underwater world is full of colour, movement, and amazing creatures. Some animals swim near the surface where the sunlight makes the water sparkle and warm.

Others prefer to swim deep down below, where it's darker, cooler, and quieter.

Every part of the sea – from the sandy bottom to the rocky reefs – is home to different types of animals. They've all adapted perfectly to their watery home.

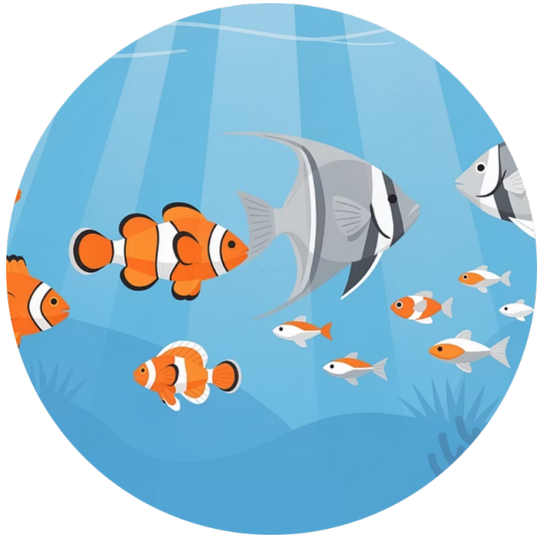


Talk with an adult: If you could swim underwater like a sea animal, where would you like to explore?

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Meet Some Sea Animals

Let's meet some of the incredible animals that call the sea their home!



Fish

Fish come in all shapes, sizes, and colours. They have fins to help them swim and gills to breathe underwater. Some fish are tiny, whilst others are as big as a car!



Dolphins

Dolphins are very clever mammals that live in the sea. They're playful, friendly, and love to jump out of the water. Dolphins breathe air, just like we do!



Turtles

Sea turtles have hard shells to protect them. They use their flippers like paddles to glide through the water. They also breathe air and come up to the surface regularly.

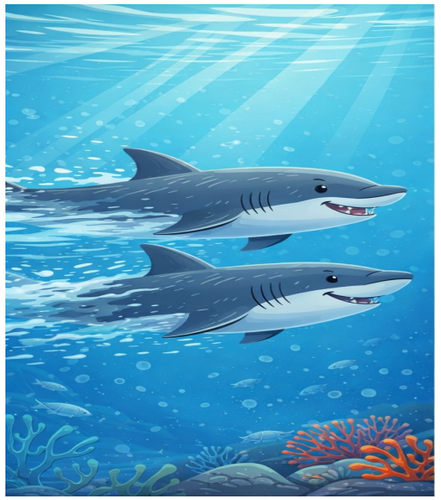
Talk with an adult: Which of these animals do you find most interesting? Why?

How Sea Animals Move

Animals that live in the sea have developed brilliant ways to move through the water. It's quite different from walking or running on land!

Swimming Fast

Some animals, like dolphins and sharks, are super speedy swimmers. They have streamlined bodies that slice through the water like arrows. Their powerful tails push them forward at incredible speeds!



Moving Slowly

Other animals, like sea turtles and starfish, take their time. They move slowly and steadily, drifting along with the ocean currents. This helps them save energy and stay safe.



Floating and Gliding

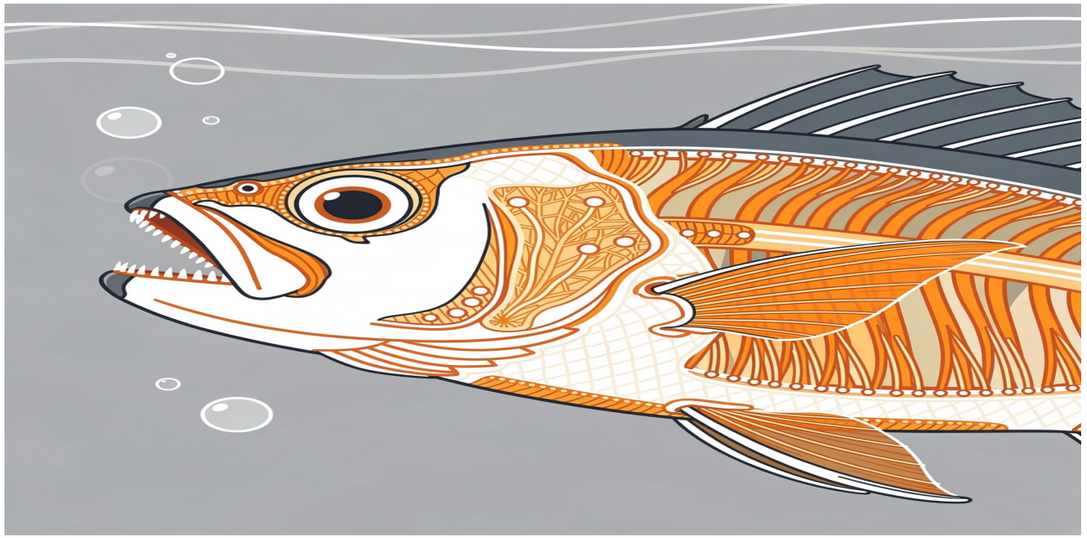
Some sea creatures, like jellyfish, float gracefully through the water. They pulse their bodies gently or drift with the waves, going wherever the water takes them.



Talk with an adult: Can you move like a fast fish? How about a slow, drifting jellyfish?

How Sea Animals Breathe

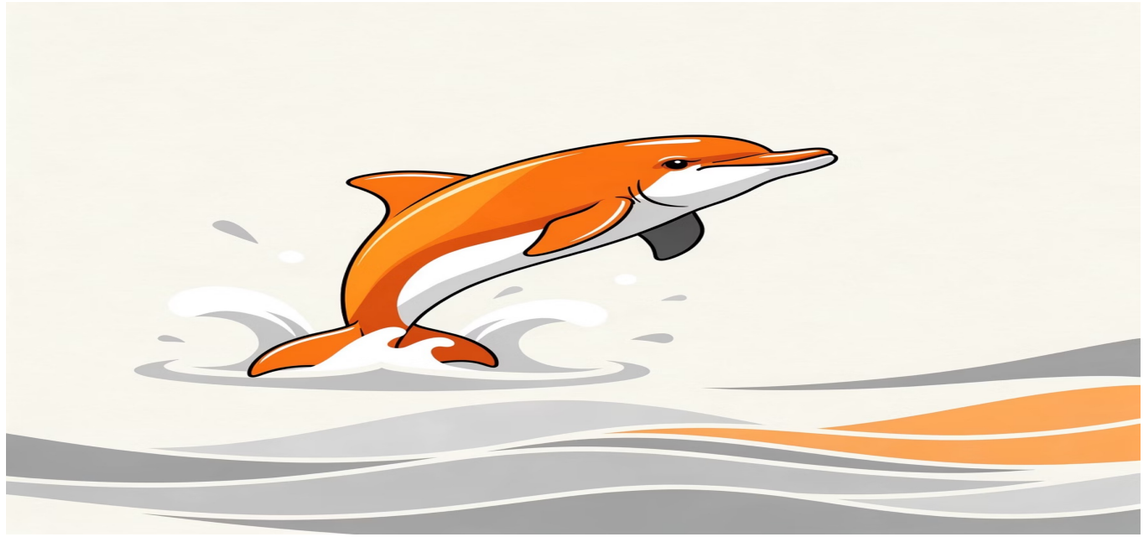
Just like us, sea animals need oxygen to survive. But they get it in different ways!



Breathing with Gills

Most fish have special body parts called gills. Gills take oxygen from the water as it passes through them.

This means fish can breathe underwater without ever coming up for air.
It's like having a built-in breathing machine!



Coming Up for Air

Dolphins, whales, and sea turtles are different.

They have lungs, just like we do, so they need to swim to the surface to breathe air.

They can hold their breath for a long time, but they must come up regularly to fill their lungs with fresh oxygen.

Talk with an adult: What do we use to breathe as humans?

Staying Safe in the Sea

The sea can be a dangerous place, so animals have clever ways to stay safe from predators and other threats.

Hiding Away

Some sea animals are experts at hiding. Octopuses can change colour to blend in with rocks and coral. Flatfish bury themselves in the sand. Clownfish hide amongst sea anemones, where bigger fish can't reach them safely.

Swimming in Groups

Many fish swim together in large groups called schools. When hundreds of fish swim close together, it confuses predators and makes it harder for them to catch just one fish. There's safety in numbers!

Shells and Armour

Sea turtles have hard shells that protect their soft bodies. Crabs and lobsters have tough outer shells like suits of armour. If danger comes, they can tuck themselves inside and stay safe until the coast is clear.







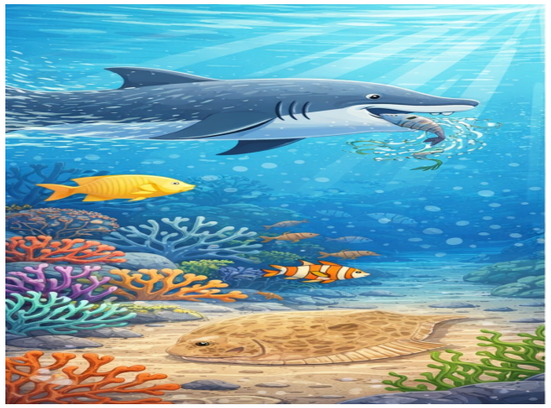
Talk with an adult: If you were a sea animal, how would you stay safe?

What All Sea Animals Need

Every animal – whether it lives on land or in the sea – needs certain things to survive and be healthy.

Food

Sea animals need to eat to get energy. Fish eat smaller fish, plankton, or plants. Dolphins hunt fish. Sea turtles munch on jellyfish and seaweed. Each animal has its favourite food!



Water

Lucky for sea animals, they live surrounded by water! They get the water they need from the sea itself and from the food they eat. Sea water is salty, and their bodies are specially designed to handle it.



Shelter

Sea animals need safe places to rest and hide. Coral reefs, underwater caves, sandy bottoms, and rocky crevices all provide shelter. These special places protect animals from storms, currents, and predators.



Talk with an adult: What do you need to stay healthy? How is it similar to what sea animals need?

Thinking About Animals That Live in the Sea

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You've discovered so much about the wonderful world of sea animals! From tiny fish to graceful dolphins and ancient sea turtles, the ocean is full of incredible life.

Remember what you've learnt

Sea animals live in different parts of the ocean, move in clever ways, and breathe using gills or by coming up for air. They stay safe by hiding, swimming in groups, or having protective shells.

Think about your favourite

Which sea animal did you find most interesting? Was it the speedy dolphin, the colourful fish, or the gentle sea turtle? Perhaps you'd like to learn more about sharks, whales, or octopuses!

Keep exploring

There are thousands more sea animals waiting to be discovered. You could visit an aquarium, read books about the ocean, or watch nature programmes to learn even more about these amazing creatures.

An Animal You'd Like to Learn About

Is there a Sea animal from today that you found really interesting?

Or perhaps another animal you'd love to know more about?

What would you like to discover?

You could say:

'I found the ..... really interesting.'

'I would like to learn more about the ..... because .....'