



# Oddities of the Ocean

The sea is home to millions of weird and wonderful creatures... but some are weirder than others! Find out more about some of the strangest creatures that live in Earth's oceans.

## Christmas Tree Worm

This weird looking creature is not a plant. It is a small worm that lives deep under the sea. Its name comes from the fact that it has two brightly coloured spirals which stick out of its back. The spirals are covered in little hairs, which make them look like Christmas trees.



These worms do not like to move much. Once they find a place they like, they burrow their bodies into it and the hair on their backs is the only thing you can see.

**Q1:** What is the name of this odd creature?

---

**Q2:** Which of these statements are true? Tick **two**.

This creature lives in trees.

This creature does not move much.

This creature is a type of plant.

This creature is a small worm.



**Q3:** *'Once they find a place they like, they burrow their bodies into it.'*  
Why do you think they do this?

---

---



## Marrus Orthocanna

This strange creature lives deep within the cold Arctic ocean and can be up to two metres long. The strange thing about this creature is that it isn't just one animal. It is lots of different animals joined together by a long stem. At the front of the creature is a bright orange float that is filled with air. Behind that are lots of stomachs, tentacles and tunnels which spray out water.



## Leafy Seadragon

This creature looks like a plant but it is actually a kind of seahorse. It looks like it has lots of leaves stuck all over it but they are a part of its body. They help it to live safely in the seaweed because nobody knows that it is there. Other creatures do not eat the leafy seadragon but lots of divers have taken them home as pets, which means that there are not very many left in the wild.



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Haslam (@flickr.com)  
- granted under creative commons licence

**Q4:** How long can the Marrus orthocanna grow?



**Q5:** Which word in the text describes how the leafy seadragon lives in the seaweed?



**Q6:** Why do you think that lots of divers took leafy seadragons home with them?



## Blobfish

This fish lives in the cold, deep waters around Australia. If the name blobfish isn't bad enough, this creature belongs to a group of fish known as the fatheads!

The blobfish has no bones, no teeth and no real muscles. It is made from a jelly-like flesh that helps it to float above the ocean floor. They spend their lives bobbing along and scooping up any small crabs or fish that get in their way.

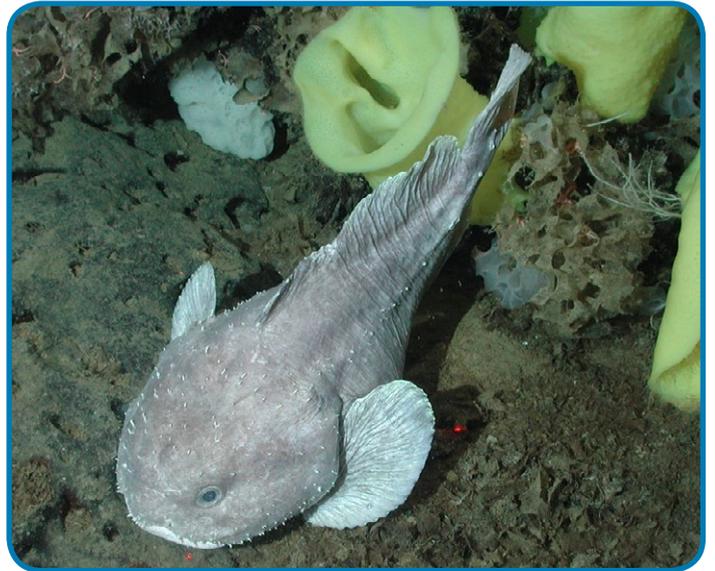


Photo courtesy of NOAA Photo Library (@flickr.com)  
- granted under creative commons licence

## Dumbo Octopus

The dumbo octopus gets its name from the fins sticking out of its head that look like big ears. One strange thing about the dumbo octopus is that it has quite big eyes but it cannot see. These creatures live in the dark depths of the sea where there is no light so they do not need to be able to see. They find their way around by feeling using their tentacles.



**Q7:** Why do you think that the blobfish was given that name?

---

---

**Q8:** Do you need to read this text in the order it is written in?

Yes

No

Explain your answer.

---

---

**Q9:** Number the facts below in the order that they appear in the text.

The first one has been done for you.

- The dumbo octopus has big eyes but cannot see.
- Leafy seadragons lives amongst the seaweed.
- Blobfish live in the deep waters around Australia.
- 1** Christmas tree worms have hairy spirals on their backs.
- The Marrus orthocanna is lots of different animals joined together.





# Our Beautiful Blue Planet

## Oddities of the Ocean **Answers**

**Q1:** What is the name of this odd creature?

**Accept the answer 'Christmas tree worm' only.**

**Q2:** Which of these statements are true? Tick **two**.

This creature lives in trees.

**This creature does not move much.**

This creature is a type of plant.

**This creature is a small worm.**

**Q3:** *'Once they find a place they like, they burrow their bodies into it.'*

Why do you think they do this?

**Accept any reasonable answer linked to the concepts of protecting themselves, hiding from predators or making themselves comfortable, such as:**

- **I think they do this to get comfy.**
- **I think they do this so that nothing can see them and they won't get eaten.**

**Q4:** How long can the *Marrus orthocanna* grow?

**Accept the answer '(up to) 2 metres' only.**

**Q5:** Which word in the text describes how the leafy seadragon lives in the seaweed?

**Accept the answer 'safely' only.**

**Q6:** Why do you think that lots of divers took leafy seadragons home with them?

**Accept any logical answer to explain their actions, such as:**

- **I think they took them because they wanted to study them.**
- **They might have taken them because they looked cute and they wanted them as a pet.**
- **They could have thought they'd make interesting pets.**
- **They were unusual and they thought people would be impressed if they had one.**

**Q7:** Why do you think that the blobfish was given that name?

**Accept answers which infer that the blobfish was named such due to its appearance, lack of bone structure or jelly-like flesh, e.g.**

- **I think it was called a blobfish because it looks like a blob of jelly.**
- **It could have been called that because it doesn't have any bones so it looks like a blob.**

**Q8:** Do you need to read this text in the order it is written in?

Yes

No

Explain your answer.

**Accept answers which acknowledge that non-fiction texts do not need to be read in a particular order, such as:**

- **You can read whichever section you want first because they don't follow on from each other.**

**Q9:** Number the facts below in the order that they appear in the text.  
The first one has been done for you.

- ⑤ The dumbo octopus has big eyes but cannot see.
- ③ Leafy seadragons lives amongst the seaweed.
- ④ Blobfish live in the deep waters around Australia.
- ① Christmas tree worms have hairy spirals on their backs.
- ② The Marrus orthocanna is lots of different animals joined together.