

INHABITANTS OF THE DEEP

MY, WHAT BIG EYES YOU HAVE!

Light comes from above, in the dim waters of the Twilight Zone. For many creatures here, the bigger the eyeballs, the better!



The **SWORDFISH** has tennis-ball-sized eyes that heat up – all the better to see you with in the murky depths.



The **BARRELETE FISH** got its name because its tube-like eyes turn inside its see-through head. Perfect for peering up at potential prey, such as a delicious jellyfish lunch.



The curious **COCKEYED SQUID'S** left eye is twice the size of its right eye. The left eye looks up and the right eye looks down.

WHAT BIG TENTACLES YOU HAVE!

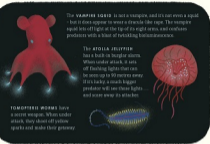
Jelly-like **SEPHONOPHORES** (sigh-foh-oh-fay-oo) are giant trailing death nets. They have stinging tentacles that capture small crustaceans, and they're the longest living thing on the planet. The siphonophore can grow to a whopping sixty metres long – that's longer than a blue whale!

At two metres long, the **WORMBOAT SQUID** is as long as a man is tall. This hungry hunter catches onto its prey with its powerful tentacles and sharp beak.



WHAT BRIGHT LIGHTS YOU HAVE!

Just as fireflies glow on land, many deep-sea creatures use bioluminescence to light up the dim waters of The Deep. Chemical reactions allow these creatures to create lights to scare away predators, lure in a mate – or attract their lunch!



The **VAMPIRE SQUID** is not a vampire, and it's not even a squid – but it does appear to wear a dracule-like cape. The vampire squid lets off light at the tip of its eight arms, and confuses predators with a blur of twinkling bioluminescence.

The **STOLIA JELLYFISH** has a built-in burglar alarm. When under attack, it sets off flashing lights that can be seen up to 90 metres away. If it's lucky, a much bigger predator will see these lights – and scare away its attacker.

TOMOPTERID WORMS have a secret weapon. When under attack, they shoot off yellow sparks and make their getaway.

AND WHAT BIG TEETH YOU HAVE!

The **SPOTLIGHT LOUISIAN BRAGGONTH** is tricky to outmanoeuvre. Even if deep-sea shrimp hit it with a bioluminescent smokescreen, it simply turns on its red searchlight to scan the area, and attacks with its needle-like teeth.



The **FANGTOOTH** has frighteningly big fangs. They're so long, they have to tuck up into pockets in the roof of its mouth, so it doesn't pierce its brain when its jaws close!



BUT WHAT CUTE FINS YOU HAVE!

FLAPJACK OCTOPUS

Meet **FLAPJACK**, one of the flattest octopuses, but the octopus king. This adorable octopus has stubby tentacles, big wide eyes and earlike fins that it flaps like wings.



GREEN SEAS

UNDERWATER FORESTS AND GARDENS

Just as there are green forests on land, their mirror image blooms under the sea. Underwater kelp forests and seagrass meadows, along with coastal saltmarshes and mangrove wetlands, are some of the most important – yet overlooked – ecosystems on our planet. Here, in these ‘green seas’, life begins, grows and is nourished.

In cold, shallow waters, green forests drift in a delicate underwater ballet. These are the world's **KELP** forests, found along a quarter of all coastlines. Stretching up like trees above the seabed, the thick golden-brown helps grow as tall as a tower block (up to 60 metres), growing so much as 50 centimetres in a single day.

ROCK
LOBSTER

Competition is fierce for space and food. **FOX** **SHALL** and **SHARKS** swim above the thick canopy. **MOUREFISH** hover between stems (called stipes) and **ROCK** **LOBSTERS** take cover amongst the help roots (called holdfasts).

Another important green seas habitat can be found from the Tropics to the Arctic: flowering **SEAGRASS MEADOWS**. They stretch along the ocean floor like prairie grasslands. In these shallow waters you might spot **GREEN TURTLES** and **SEEDINGS** as they munch away, keeping the grasses trim and healthy.

While seagrass meadows can be vital nurseries for young fish, some of the richest nurseries can be found elsewhere in the green seas: in coastal **LAGUNARIES** and **MANGROVE FORESTS**. They fringe the coastlines, and baby fish hide from hungry predators within the tangle of grass, roots and leaves.

Our green seas – kelp forests, seagrass meadows, saltmarshes and mangrove forests – are some of the most crowded underwater worlds. Together they help to feed marine life across our Blue Planet.

COMMON
OCTOPUS