

Weird and Wonderful Marine life

Reading Comprehension

Y3

Y4

Marine life consists of **plants, animals and other living organisms** that reside in the sea or the ocean. Marine life accounts for a hefty ninety-four percent of the Earth's living species! **The World Register of Marine Species** reports that there are 240,470 accepted species but this is believed to be only a small fraction of what really exists underwater.

Here are five unusual and interesting sea creatures for you to enjoy!

1. Anglerfish: This angry looking fish lives in the deep, dark, depths of the ocean. Its most distinctive feature is the lamp it wears above its head. This 'lamp' is used to lure prey close enough to be snatched into their huge mouths. The glow is created by bioluminescent bacteria that inhabit the end of the rod like structure, which is called an **esca**.



2. Blobfish: This blob like fish does not have a full skeleton or muscles, its body is made from a jelly like substance. It can withstand immense sea pressure where it lives deep underwater and is actually thought to look more like a regular fish in its own habitat than it does out of the water.



3. Sand striker: To catch its prey, this marine worm buries itself into the ocean floor leaving its wide-open mouth and five antennae exposed. When a fish brushes past the sensor-like antennae, the sand strikers mouth snaps shut with such speed and force that it can snap its prey in two.



4. Blue Whale: The blue whale is not only the largest animal in the Ocean; it is the largest on Earth! Their tongues alone can weigh as much as one elephant! The blue whale can dive up to 500m to catch its food but being a mammal it must come to the surface of the water for air.



5. Flying Fish: These fish are seen worldwide jumping out of the water and 'flying' distances of up to 200 metres to escape predators. Their torpedo shape helps them to gather enough speed to break the water's surface and their wing shaped pectoral fins help them to glide through the air.

