



## Diving With Deep-sea Creatures



photo by NOAA Ocean Exploration, Exploration of the Gulf of Mexico 2014

### Mini Fact:

The dumbo octopus lives deeper in the ocean than any other known octopus.

Sometimes when we think about the ocean, we might imagine sandy beaches, seagulls and the bright sun. But what lives really, really deep in the ocean? While much of the deep sea remains unexplored, scientists have made some discoveries. The Mini Page takes a look at deep-sea creatures this week.

### Exploration

The average ocean depth is 2.3 miles (about 12,100 feet). The deepest part of the ocean is called Challenger Ocean. It is about 6.8 miles (35,876 feet) deep.

The ocean covers 71% of Earth, but only 5% of it has been explored! Devices that can go beneath the surface, such as special underwater vehicles, help scientists explore the seafloor and depths that humans have trouble getting to themselves. Through video, we're able to better understand what types of creatures live at these dark depths. We're also able to see how they're able to live this way. Creatures



Two engineers work on Orpheus, an underwater vehicle, during an exploration in 2021.

that live so far beneath the surface and in such darkness have adapted to their environments to that they can survive there.

### Dumbo octopuses

If you've seen a movie about an elephant who flies, you likely can see the similarities between the dumbo octopus pictured above and the cartoon character.

These octopuses live at least 13,000 feet below the surface of the ocean. They eat their food whole. Some things they eat include bristle worms and amphipods, which are small crustaceans (crust-AY-shins).

### Exploration

The starfish pictured here was photographed during the Deep 2018 ocean exploration. It lives about 3,691 feet under the surface of the sea.

The team exploring found the starfish offshore in North Carolina on an intercanion ridge. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this area has long ridges along the outer edge of the continent between large, major canyons in the deep ocean floor. This shows that the seafloor isn't just flat.

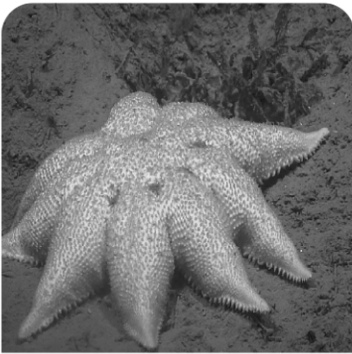


photo by NOAA Ocean Exploration, Windows to the Deep 2018

## Bioluminescence

In the summer, when the fireflies come out at night, you and your friends might have fun chasing their bright lights. Some deep-sea creatures make those lights, too! This chemical reaction inside a glowing creature is called **bioluminescence** (BYE-oh-loom-in-ESS-ents).

The glowing red jellyfish pictured here was photographed by a remotely operated vehicle in the Pacific Ocean.

This jellyfish was found more than 4,920 feet below the ocean's surface.

Deep-sea creatures can use their bioluminescence to attract prey. For example, anglerfish use a glowing organ that droops from their foreheads to attract food. Sometimes creatures use their bioluminescence like a flashlight, helping them see in the dark.

Another way animals use their bioluminescence below the water's surface is to communicate. They flash their lights to "speak" to other creatures.

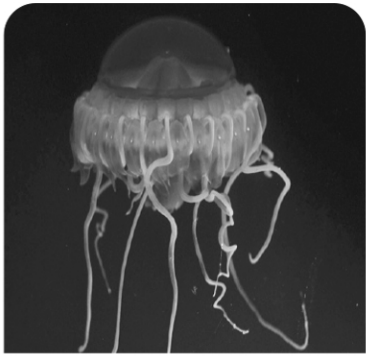


photo by NOAA Ocean Exploration

## Resources

### On the Web:

- ocean.si.edu/ecosystems/deep-sea/deep-sea

### At the library:

- "The Fascinating Ocean Book for Kids: 500 Incredible Facts!" by Bethanie Hestermann and Josh Hestermann



## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of deep-sea creatures are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

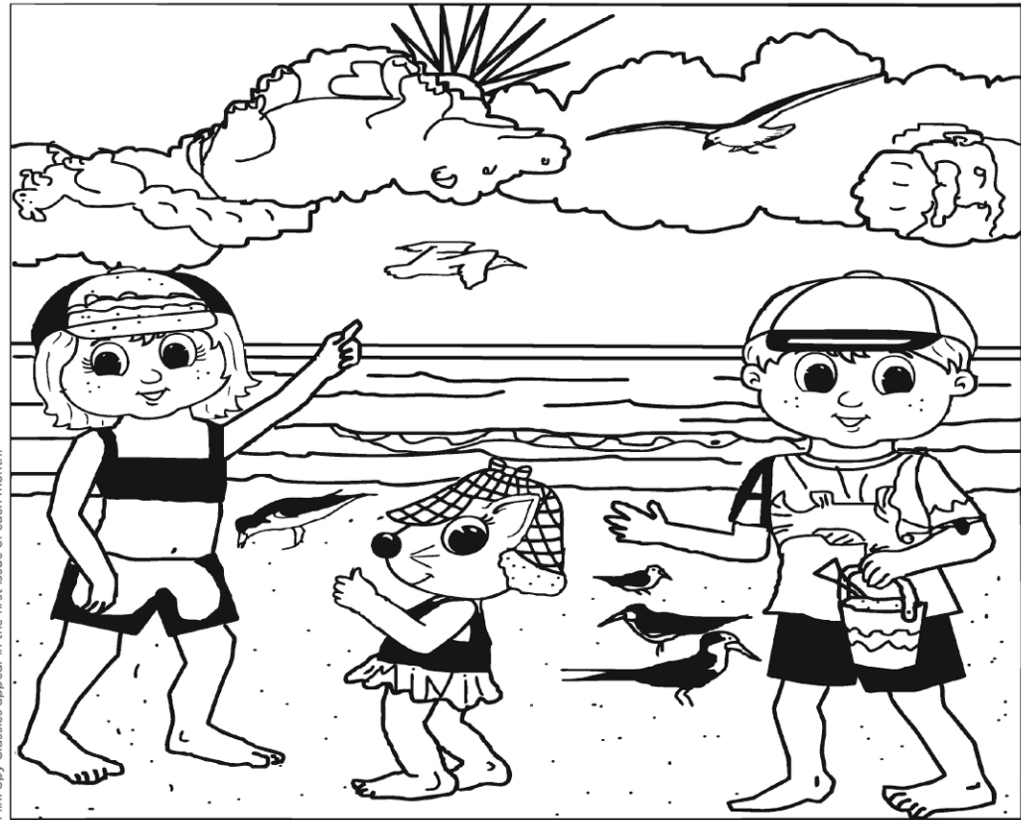


BIOLUMINESCENCE,  
DARKNESS, DEVICES,  
DEEP, DIVE, EXPEDITION,  
EXPLORE, FISH,  
JELLYFISH, LIGHT,  
OCEAN, OCTOPUS,  
SURFACE, TECHNOLOGY,  
UNDERWATER,  
VEHICLES.

N A E C O D E V I C E S V R X  
U N D E R W A T E R I E V I D  
I E P N O I T I D E P X E X O  
B I O L U M I N E S C E N C E  
M S E R O L P X E N H S I F C  
V E H I C L E S T T H G I L A  
W W K P D A R K N E S S Z P F  
H T E Q C J E L L Y F I S H R  
K E X S O C T O P U S V V Y U  
D Y G O L O N H C E T Z J X S

## Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her friends are enjoying a day at the beach. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



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- ice cream cone
- letter A
- squirrel
- heart
- hippopotamus
- number 3
- word MINI
- hamburger
- bell
- funny face
- letter D
- fish
- snake

## Mini Jokes

**Finn:** Where does a fish keep its money?  
**Freya:** In a riverbank!



## Eco Note

Surveys of Australia's Great Barrier Reef reveal that there is now so much new dead coral that scientists believe a serious coral bleaching event is developing. The worst bleaching has been observed north and south of Townsville. Mild or moderate bleaching has been seen in the far north of the reef. Rising ocean temperatures due to climate change are blamed for the more-frequent bleaching, which also occurred on a large scale in 1998, 2002, 2016, 2017 and 2020.

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## For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about fish.

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