

Non-chronological report

Fact Files — Sea Creatures

Monday 11th May

Brilliant Blue Whales

Whales are massive mammals who live in the ocean. The blue whale is the biggest type of whale and is the biggest animal on Earth.

What do they look like?

Blue Whales have long, torpedo shaped bodies that can be about 30m long. They are a blue grey colour



Long streamlined blue whale.

What do they eat?

Blue Whales eat about 4 tonnes of Krill. They filter the Krill through the Baleen plates in their mouth

Where do they live?

Blue whales live in the ocean. They can be found in all the oceans on the planet.

Did You Know?

A blue Whales tongue weighs the same as an elephant.

Last week we wrote a non-chronological report – fact file – about blue whales. This week you are going to choose your own sea creature to write a fact file about.

What features of a fact file do you need to remember to include?

Heading or title

Introduction

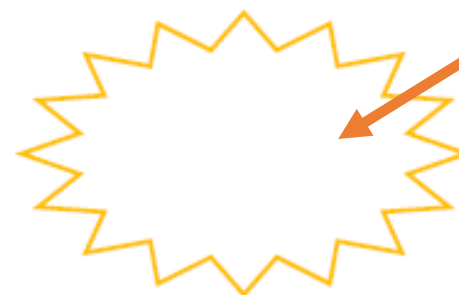
Subheading or subtitle

Information in paragraphs

Picture with caption

Fact splat

--



What sea creature will you write about?

- You need to decide which sea creature you are going to write about.
- This could be a sea creature that you already know some information about or one that you want to find out about.
- I have included some information about different sea creatures that you might want to use.



whale

Habitat: Warmer waters of oceans. They come to the coasts in winter.

Diet: Shrimp, squids, crustaceans and krill. They are mostly carnivores.

How it Survives: Humpback whales only hunt and feed in summer and live off their fat reserves in winter.

Amazing Fact: The blue whale's call is the loudest sound made by any animal on Earth.

the whale.com



dolphin

Habitat: All oceans.

Diet: Fish, squid and crustaceans. They are carnivores.

How it Survives: Herding their prey and trapping them is a technique used by pods of dolphins.

Amazing Fact: Dolphins sleep with one eye open so they can watch out for predators.

the whale.com



shark

Habitat: Most places in the ocean.

Diet: Fish, squid and even other sharks. They are carnivores.

How it Survives: Sharks have an amazing sense of smell that helps them detect a single drop of blood in an Olympic-sized pool.

Amazing Fact: Sharks can also detect electric signals from its prey. This means it can mistake underwater cameras for food.

the whale.com



crab

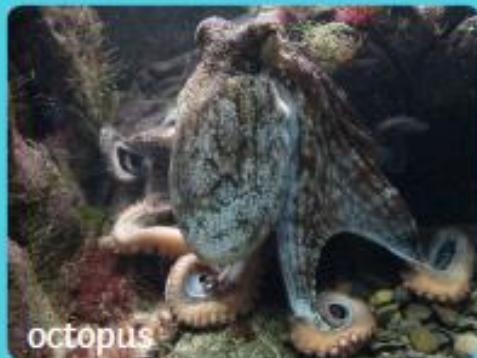
Habitat: Seashores, caves, in sand or mud of oceans and on land.

Diet: Algae, molluscs, worms and bacteria. They are omnivores.

How it Survives: Crabs may fight with each other in competition for a hiding hole or cave.

Amazing Fact: A crab's shell is actually its skeleton.

the whale.com



Habitat: Oceans and coral reefs.

Diet: Small crabs, scallops, snails, fish, turtles and crustaceans such as shrimp. They are carnivores.

How it Survives: By catching prey with its arms, biting it with its beak to poison and paralyse it, before sucking out the flesh.

Amazing Fact: Octopuses have three hearts and blue blood.

twinkl.com



Habitat: Oceans and some lakes.

Diet: Small fish, fish eggs, crustaceans and plankton. They are carnivores.

How it Survives: Its prey gets caught in its tentacles and is stung with a paralysing poison before it is eaten.

Amazing Fact: Jellyfish have been around for over 650 million years, making them older than dinosaurs!

twinkl.com



Habitat: Shallow, tropical waters in coral reefs.

Diet: Tiny plankton and crustaceans, such as shrimp. They are omnivores.

How it Survives: A seahorse needs to constantly eat to survive. Adults can end up eating 30-50 times a day.

Amazing Fact: The male seahorse gives birth to their young. They are the only species to do this.

twinkl.com



Habitat: Oceans, coral reefs and tidal pools.

Diet: Clams, mussels, oysters, algae and seagrasses. They are omnivores.

How it Survives: They usually eat prey that are slower-moving than themselves.

Amazing Fact: Some varieties of starfish have a lot more than 5 arms. The sunflower sea-star has up to 40 arms!

twinkl.com

Commotion in the Ocean Facts



The Crab

There are about 6,800 **species** of crab found in all of the oceans around the world, in fresh water and there are also some **terrestrial** crabs (ones that live entirely on land).

Crabs can be as small as the **pea crab** - which is only a few millimetres wide to the **Japanese spider crab** - which can have a leg span of up to 4 metres (about 13 feet).

They have 5 pairs of legs (the first pair are known as the **claws**).

Crabs are **omnivores**, which means they eat both plants and animals.

The feed mostly on **algae** but they also feed on mollusks, worms, fungi, bacteria, crustaceans and organic non-living material.



© Teacher's Pet 2012. www.tpet.co.uk

Commotion in the Ocean Facts



The Angelfish

There are two main types of angelfish - those that live in the **freshwater** rivers in South America (**freshwater angelfish**) and those that inhabit the salty ocean waters (**marine angelfish**).

A female angelfish lays about **1000 eggs** on the surface of plants and rocks. The parents guard the eggs carefully and they hatch **24 - 36 hours** after they are laid.

They live for **10 - 15 years**.

It is a natural **carnivore** that enjoys living on **bloodworm** and **black worm**. Brine shrimp, insects and insect larva also form part of their diet.



© Teacher's Pet 2012. www.tpet.co.uk

Commotion in the Ocean Facts



The Jellyfish

There are over **1500** different types of jellyfish in the ocean.

They have tiny stinging cells in their **tentacles** to stun or paralyze their prey before they eat them.

Jelly fish stings can be painful to humans and sometimes very dangerous. But they don't purposely attack humans. Most stings occur when people accidentally touch them.

The **lion's mane** is the largest known jellyfish. It can reach a diameter of 8 ft and its tentacles can grow to be half the length of a football pitch.

They dine on fish, shrimp, crabs, plants and will even eat other species of jellyfish.



© Teacher's Pet 2012. www.tpet.co.uk

Commotion in the Ocean Facts



The Dolphin

There are 36 different kinds of **ocean** dolphin and 5 species of **river** dolphin.

They can swim up to **260 metres** below the surface of the ocean. They can also stay under water for up to 15 minutes, but they cannot breathe under the water. They use a **blowhole** on top of their heads to breathe.

Dolphins are very sociable mammals - they live in **schools** or **pods** of between 10 - 12 individuals.

They communicate with each other through clicking, whistling and other sounds.

Dolphins are believed to be very **intelligent**.



© Teacher's Pet 2012. www.tpet.co.uk

Commotion in the Ocean Facts



The Shark

Sharks are actually classed as fish. Just like fish they have gills which allow them to breathe under water.

They come in a range of sizes, from the 6 inch Dwarf Lantern shark to the 40+ ft whale shark.

Sharks have the most powerful jaws on the planet and they never run out of teeth. If one is lost, another spins forward from the rows and rows of backup teeth.

A shark may grow and use over 20,000 teeth in its lifetime.

They have tail fins which move from side to side.



Commotion in the Ocean Facts



Deep sea fish - The Anglerfish

The angry-looking deep sea **anglerfish** has every right to be moody. It is quite possibly the ugliest animal on the planet and it lives in the lonely and lightless bottom of the sea.

They live up to a **mile** below the surface in the murky depths of the **Atlantic** and **Antarctic** oceans.

The females have a large **spine** hanging above their mouths that looks just like a fishing pole - hence the name 'angler'.

They lure in their **prey** with a luminous piece of flesh at the end of their 'rod'.

Their mouths are so big that they can swallow prey twice their own size.



Commotion in the Ocean Facts



The Octopus

Octopuses are famous for their rounded bodies, **bulging** eyes and eight long arms. They live in all the world's oceans but are most common in warm, **tropical** waters.

Crabs, shrimps and lobsters rank as their favorite foods, though some can attack larger **prey**, like sharks.

Seals, whales and large fish prey on octopuses. If threatened, octopuses shoot an **inky fluid** out that darkens the water, confusing the predator so that the octopus can escape.

They can also change colour to **blend** in with their surroundings so that they can hide.



Commotion in the Ocean Facts



The Stingray

Stingrays, with their wide, flat, bodies may not look like fish but they are.

They prefer **shallow**, near-shore waters in warm parts of the world. They spend most of their time lying partially **buried** on the ocean floor hiding from predators, like sharks, or waiting for prey to swim by. Their colours usually match the mud or sand they hide in.

They have tails that are armed for **defense** - Some kinds of stingrays have a **spine** in their tail with a sharp point. Others even have **venom** that is delivered through their tails.

Their favourite foods include clams, oysters, crabs, shrimps and mussels.



Commotion in the Ocean Facts



The Sea Turtle

The sea turtle lives in oceans all over the world, except in the coldest seas. There are seven species of sea turtle and they are all protected by law.

The loggerhead sea turtle can live to be 50 years old in the wild.

The females travel thousands of miles to return to the beach where they hatched as a baby, so that they can lay their own eggs as an adult.

Even though their eggs are buried in the sand, they are not always safe. Some will fall prey to hungry raccoons or wild pigs.

Lots of eggs are laid to make sure that some will survive.



© Teacher's Pet 2012. www.tpet.co.uk

Commotion in the Ocean Facts



The Swordfish

Swordfish are large ocean fish that are recognised by their long, **flat bill** that looks like a sword - hence the name swordfish.

They prefer warmer waters but are found throughout much of the world's oceans.

Swordfish can grow to be as long as **14 feet** and way over 500 kilograms.

They are **carnivores** that enjoy eating other ocean fish such as mackerel, bluefish and herring as well as squid and octopus.

It is known to be one of the **fastest** fish in the ocean.



© Teacher's Pet 2012. www.tpet.co.uk

Commotion in the Ocean Facts



The Lobster

Lobsters are ten-legged **crustaceans** closely related to shrimp and crabs. These bottom-dwelling creatures are found in all the world's oceans, as well as in brackish environments and even **fresh water**.

They have very poor eyesight (deep sea lobsters are completely blind) but have highly developed **senses** of taste and smell.

Their favourite foods are fish and mollusks but they will also eat algae, other plant life and even other lobsters!

They can live as long as **50 years** in the wild and have to shed their shell so that they can continually grow.



© Teacher's Pet 2012. www.tpet.co.uk

Heading or title:

Write an exciting heading for your sea creature. Use an interesting adjective. Can you use alliteration?



--



--

Introduction:

Write 2 or 3 sentences to introduce your sea creature. Remember this is an overview of the creature.