

Kids Read

CURIOUS WORLD



A friendly seal takes a break on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island. What do you think this seal would say if it could talk?



Seal photo by Mulberry Creek Imagery



Ms. Tori loves volunteering at the Oklahoma Aquarium, where sometimes she gets to dress up like a mermaid!

Aquarium Librarian

Ms. Tori **LOVES** Kids, Books & Ocean Animals!

Tori Hamilton – better known as “Ms. Tori” – has been a children’s associate at the Glenpool Library for more than six years. But she also loves the Oklahoma Aquarium and all things ocean! Read this Q&A with Ms. Tori to learn more.

Q: Do you have any fond ocean memories? For someone who is going to the ocean for the first time, what do you recommend they do?

A: Well, all of my ocean memories are fond ones! It’s hard to have a bad time at the beach! If you’re going for the first time, try everything! Walk barefoot in the sand, dig for shells, float in the water and read under a colorful umbrella. You never know which parts will be your favorites.

Q: What is your absolute, all-time favorite ocean animal? Why?

A: I love octopuses! They’re just so amazing! I can go on and on about how great they are. (In fact, I wrote a list of cool octopus facts, in this very guide you are reading!)

Q: You are known for singing and playing guitar in your storytimes at the Glenpool Library. Do you have a favorite ocean-themed song that you think kids will like? What makes it a good song?

A: I love the old campfire song “Barges” about watching ships in the harbor. It’s upbeat and catchy. So cheerful! *NOTE TO READERS: Watch Ms. Tori sing this song at www.youtube.com/tulsalibrary!

Q: You also like to do yoga moves in storytime. Any ocean yoga move kids could easily do?

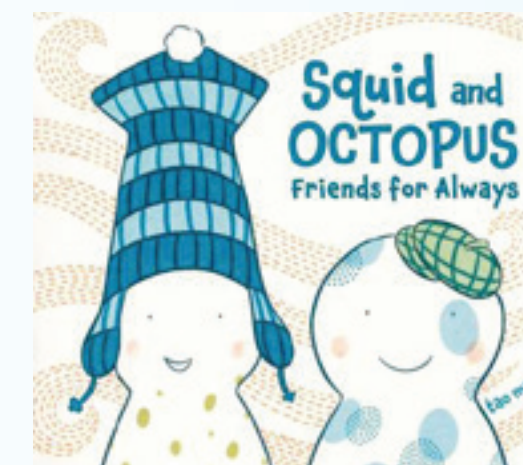
A: Of course! My favorite “ocean” pose is Warrior 2. Technically, it has nothing to do with the ocean, but it’s perfect for pretending you’re surfing while you build strong surfing muscles!

Q: What do you want kids to get out of the Summer Reading Program? Any words of advice or wisdom for them? What does the library have to offer them?

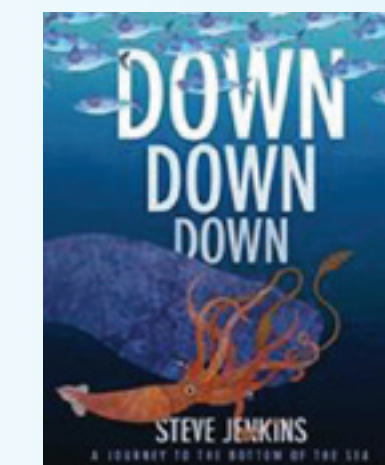
A: Mostly I want kids to know it’s not just about the books! It’s about what’s inside them. Knowledge and stories, cool pictures and cool facts. Reading doesn’t have to be boring if you read about things you love.

Oh, no! The octopus has captured Ms. Tori! Well, not really ... she’s just getting ready for an ocean octopus storytime at the Glenpool Library.

MS. TORI’S SIX FAVORITE OCEAN BOOKS



Squid and Octopus: Friends for Always by Tao Nyeu • Cute and colorful! This picture book is equal parts silly and wholesome.



Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea by Steve Jenkins
Awesome illustrations bring this informative nonfiction book to life.



Ocean Meets Sky by Terry Fan
Breathtakingly beautiful and highly imaginative, this is the stuff dreams are made of!



I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry • A giant squid brags about how big he is, with predictable consequences.



Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea by Ben Clanton • First book in a hilarious graphic novel series.



Ocean Life by Jill McDonald
An adorable board book for sharing ocean love with very young readers.



Cool Octopus Facts

Why does
Ms. Tori
LOVE these
sea creatures?

Octopuses have blue blood.

While humans (and most other animals) have iron in their blood cells, octopuses have copper in theirs. This not only gives their blood its blue color but also makes it easier for octopuses to survive in low-oxygen environments.

Octopus arms have a mind of their own (sort of).

Octopus brains are spread throughout their bodies, including in their arms! In fact, if an octopus is attacked by predators, they might sacrifice an arm and run away. The arm will keep moving on its own to confuse the predator!

Octopuses are masters of disguise.

Not only do octopuses have the same color-changing cells that chameleons have, their springy skin can also bunch up to look like plants or smooth out to look like stones on the ocean floor.

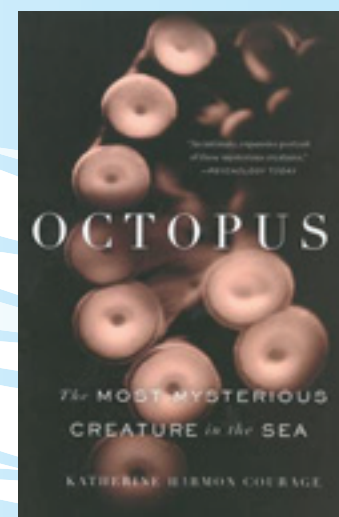
Octopuses can solve puzzles.

Octopuses are some of the smartest animals alive. Scientists have watched octopuses solve problems, escape complicated situations and even use tools in the wild.

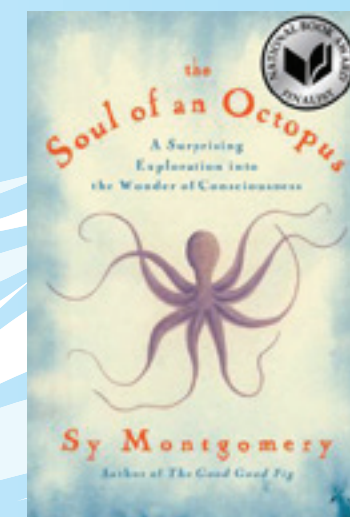
Not all octopuses are the same.

There are as many species of octopus as there are breeds of dog! Some live in shallow, warm waters close to beaches, while others live in the deepest, darkest parts of the ocean floor. The adorable Dumbo Octopus has fins that look like ears. The colorful Wonderpus is known to be extra friendly around divers and loves to have its picture taken. And the Giant Pacific Octopus can weigh over 100 pounds! Which kind will be your favorite??

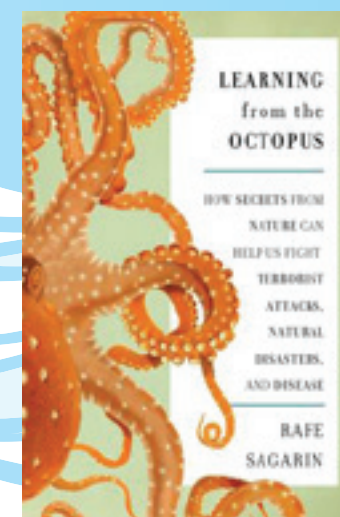
Where did Ms. Tori
learn these facts?
From these books!



Octopus: The Most Mysterious Creature of the Sea
by Katherine Harmon Courage



The Soul of an Octopus
by Sy Montgomery



Learning From the Octopus
by Rafe Sagarin

MAKE THIS DOLPHIN LAUGH!

Great Ocean
JOKES to Tell Your
Friends, Family –
and Dolphins!

If dolphins didn't
live in the ocean and
lived on land instead,
which country would
they live in?

Finland!

Where
do fish like
to sleep?

In a
waterbed!

Why did
the shark
suddenly blush?

It saw the ocean's
bottom!

When the
dolphin was
feeling sad, how
did the octopus
make him laugh?

With ten-tickles!

Where do
starfish keep
their money?

In their
octo-purse!

What do
walrus say when
they hear bad jokes?

That's the seal-iest
thing I've ever
heard.

Find more to laugh at in joke books at the
library, in the Juvenile Nonfiction 818s –
ask your friendly librarian to show you where!

7 Big Things to Know About Oceans

1

Oceans are all wet.

This is an obvious fact, but still pretty amazing! Think about oceans as big, connected bowls made out of rock and filled with salt water. A LOT of water. In fact, about 72 percent of Earth is covered by water in oceans. (The rest is in your bathtub! Just kidding!)

2

Many animals live in and around the ocean.

Because most humans live on land, we forget that oceans take up a lot more of our planet's space – and have more animals! Here are just a few animals who live in and around the ocean: starfish, octopus, stingray, shark, jellyfish, squid, whale, walrus, seal, penguin, seagull, crab, shrimp. Some sea animals, like whales, actually started as land animals! But they eventually lost their legs and found ways to live in the ocean.

3

Plants live in the ocean, too.

Your parents may have a beautiful vegetable garden or front lawn, but oceans are the best garden spots in the world! Not every sea animal eats other animals; many feast on delicious underwater plants instead.

4

There are different levels of the ocean.

It's strange to think of, but parts of the ocean are so deep they have huge underwater mountains and volcanoes we can't see! In fact, the largest mountain range isn't on land at all, but under the ocean. There are five different ocean levels or zones. The deeper you go, the colder and darker it gets! Most animals and plants live in the Sunlight Zone, where the water is warm and sunlight makes it easy to see. The deepest levels, the Abyss Zone and the Trenches, have very few animals because it is so dark and cold there.

5

Oceans move. The moon is involved!

There are two different ways the oceans move. One is the water cycle, where water evaporates from the ocean (and other bodies of water) into the air and becomes clouds. When the clouds get heavy, water droplets form and create precipitation, which falls to the ground – and back to the ocean! The second way oceans move is through tides, which are controlled by the force of gravity from the moon. Water rises and gets closer to land at “high tide” and then pulls back and away from land at “low tide.”

6

Humans love to explore oceans and ocean animals.

More people have traveled to the moon than the deepest levels of the ocean, but that doesn't mean we don't have many sea explorers! Sylvia Earle, Jacques Cousteau and Eugenie Clark are all famous oceanographers you can read more about at the library.

7

Seas and oceans are the same but different.

We usually use the words “sea” and “ocean” interchangeably, but seas are smaller parts of the ocean, closer to land. For example, the Norwegian Sea is close to the land of Sweden and Iceland, but it's also part of the much larger Arctic Ocean. Think of an ocean as a large dress with lots of pieces and seas as pockets in that dress!

4

Write & Illustrate a Whale of a Tale!

Three Ways to Build Your Story

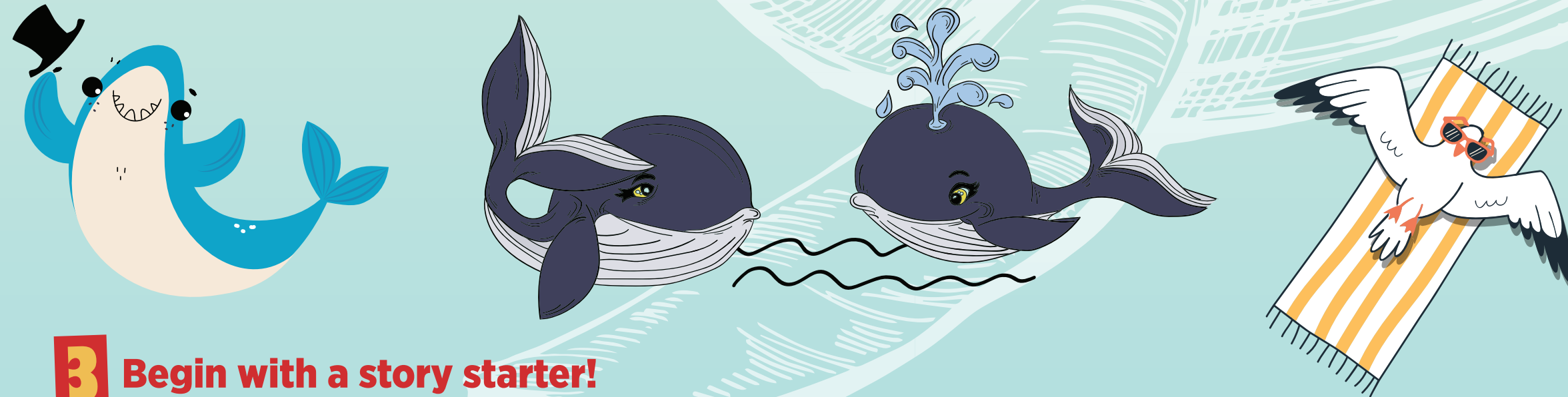
1 Choose a story idea.

Choose one of these character and conflict combinations to start your story!

- The ship's captain, notoriously vain about his long purple hair and beautiful suits, doesn't like to get wet. But Captain Floopentoot has a very important mission: deliver medicine to sick children across the sea. Will he be able to overcome his distaste for the water and become a hero?
- Rose the Octopus wants to explore the Sunshine level of the ocean, but her mom insists she bring her little brother along. Can she possibly have fun with him when he's so small and can't do everything she can do?
- After a swimmer wins a race in the ocean, they meet a sad whale who has never won anything. Will the swimmer give the whale their medal? Or find another way to make the whale feel better?
- When a mythical sea creature discovers that it's not real, it decides to find answers from the Easter Bunny.

2 Choose a doodle!

Sometimes a drawing can spark a story! Which sea-related cartoon do you see a story in? What's going on in each cartoon that might make a good story beginning?



3 Begin with a story starter!

Use these opening sentences to help get your story started!

- "What is that?" my sister said as she pointed behind me on the beach. I turned around and saw ...
- I'm just your everyday, average, rainbow-colored penguin. I'm not special. Well, maybe a little.
- People think dolphins are smart, but I'm here to tell you they are also really annoying!
- My submarine broke down again. Third time in four days. How am I ever going to get to the Caribbean Sea now?
- I swam up to my classroom on the first day of fourth grade.

Write with these WHALE FACTS in mind!

See if you can use any of these whale facts in your story.

- The largest mammal in the world doesn't live on land – it lives under water! The blue whale is about as big as two-and-a-half school buses put together. A blue whale's tongue can be as heavy as an entire elephant's body!
- Whales didn't start out as sea animals. They evolved from four-legged land animals. Over time, their arms turned to flippers and they lost their legs!
- Sometimes sperm whales must dive into deep waters to hunt. When this happens and they have small babies, they leave their babies with "babysitter" whales while they are gone.
- In fact, orca whales frequently live for over 100 years! Grandmother orca whales often care for their grandchildren, helping their daughters by sharing food and looking after the young whales as they grow.

INTERVIEW WITH A FISH

Meet **WAFFLES**, the Helmerich Library Fish!



Q : Waffles, what is your job at the Helmerich Library?

A : Officially, I am the Chief Helmerich Security Officer (Aquatic Crimes Division). Unofficially, I am the Purveyor of Joy and Happiness of young and old alike.

Q : What are some of your favorite things?

A : I am a little shy so I like to hang out in the back corner of my tank. That is my favorite spot. I do my best thinking there! When I am getting food, one of my favorite things to do is a whole bunch of loop de loops to get my food!

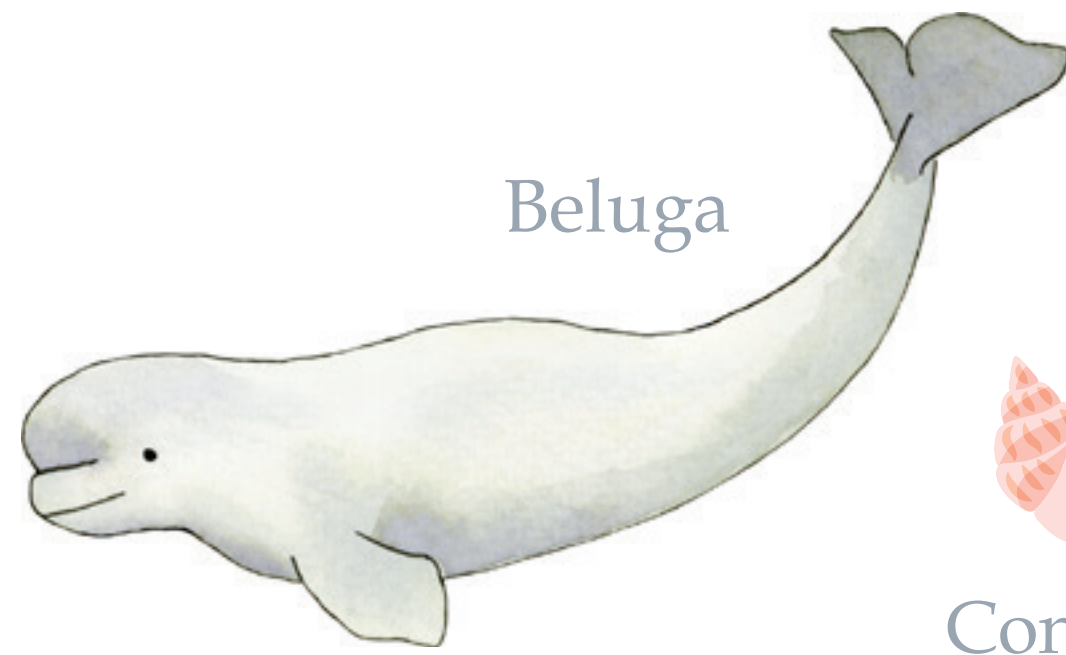
Q : Can you recommend any good books?

A : I am so glad you asked! Another important part of my job is to keep up on all aquatic-related materials. Some of my favorite sections to peruse are J 597 where you will find books on fish in the wild and J 639.34 where you will find books about taking care of pet fish, like me! You also can find some of my recommendations on the Helmerich Library Staff Picks display. My favorite book? *My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish* by Mo O'Hara – it's so silly!

The **A**, **B**, **S** seas



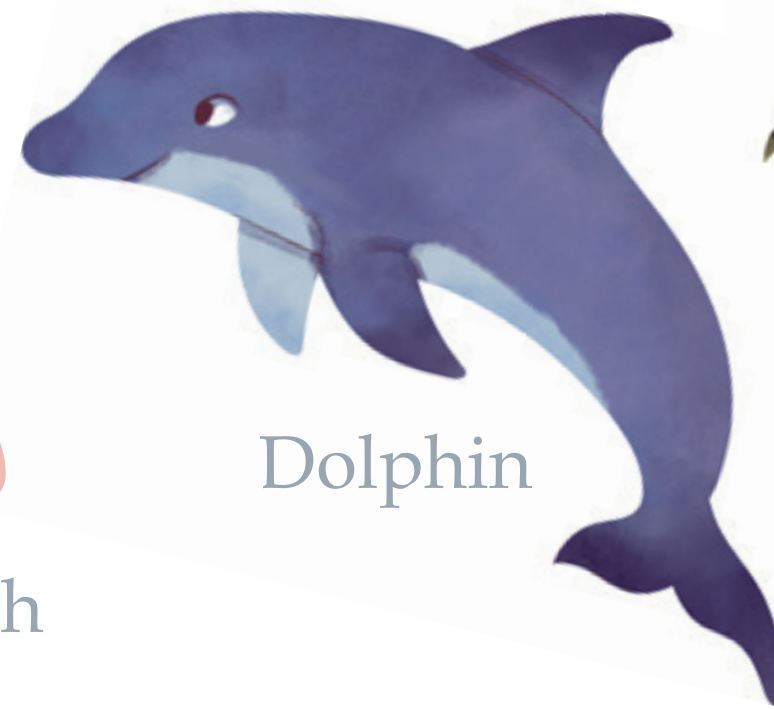
Angelfish



Beluga



Conch



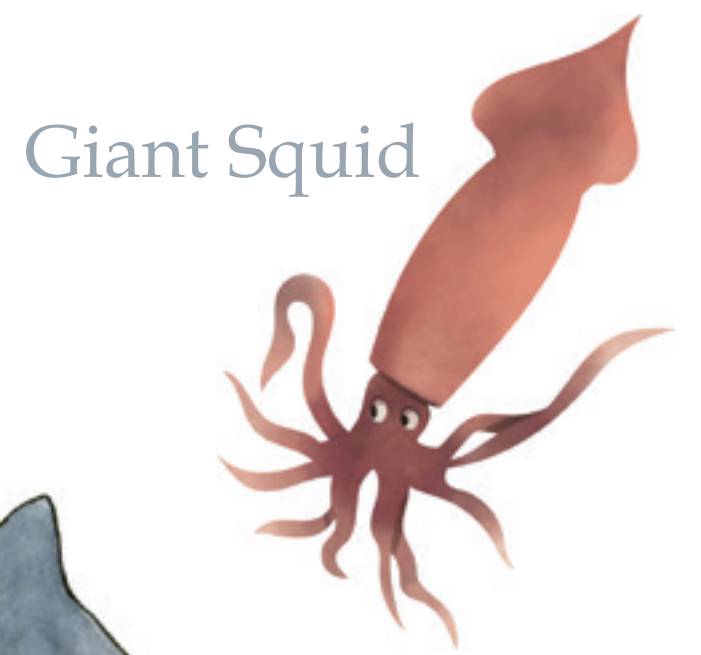
Dolphin



Eel



Flying Fish



Giant Squid



Humpback Whale



Jellyfish



Krill



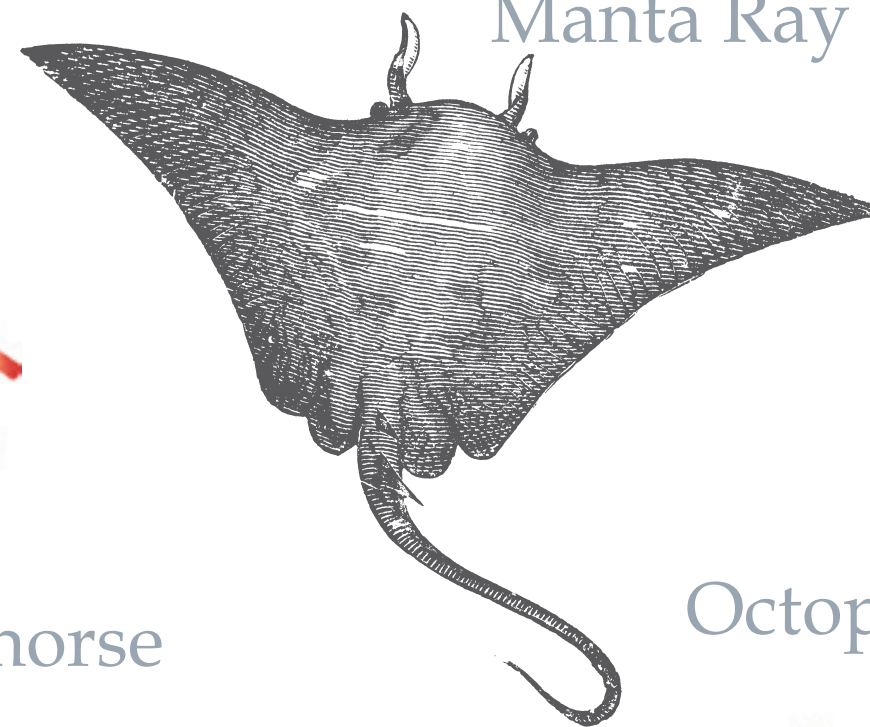
Lionfish



Rainbow Fish



Seahorse



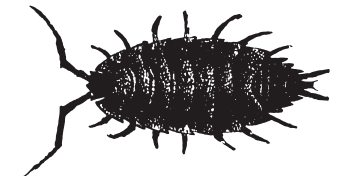
Manta Ray



Octopus



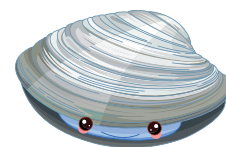
Narwhal



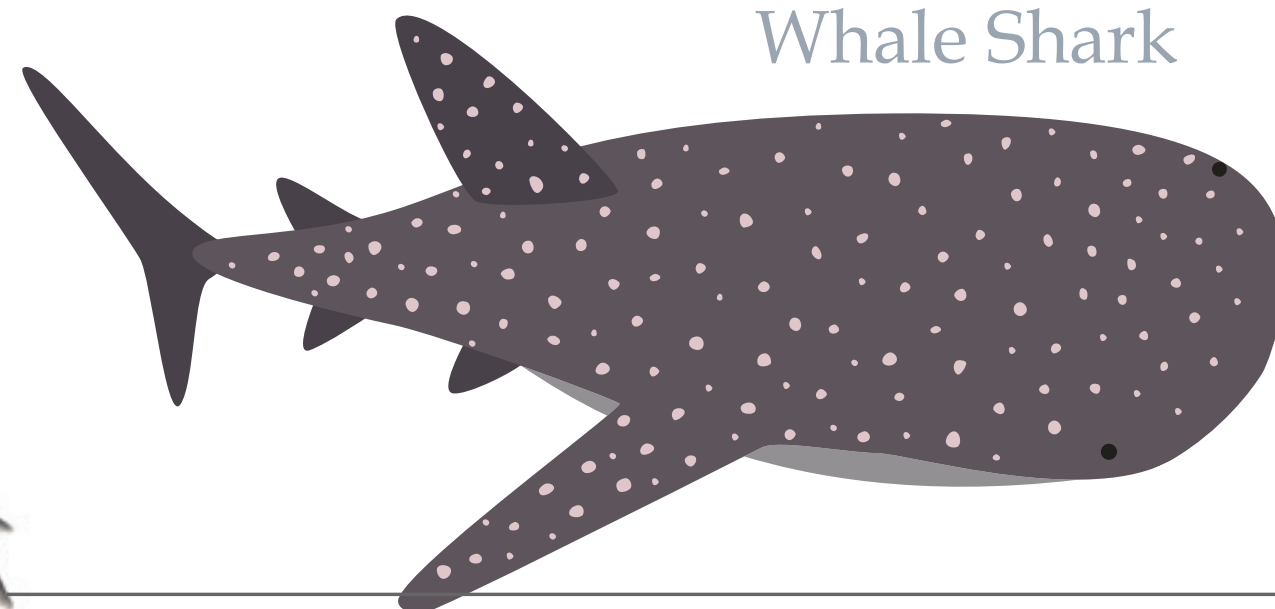
Isopods



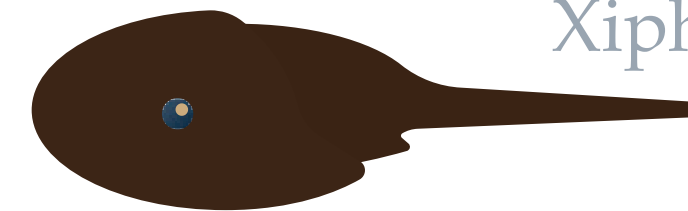
Prawn



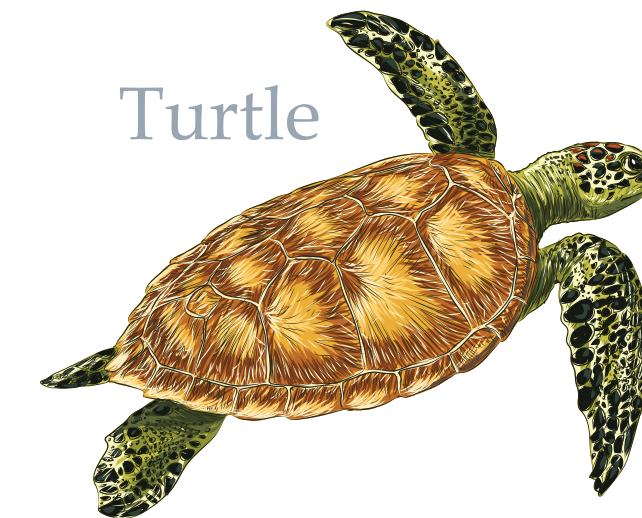
Quahog



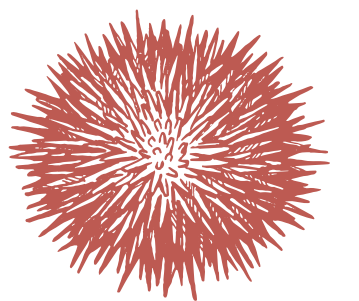
Whale Shark



Xiphosura

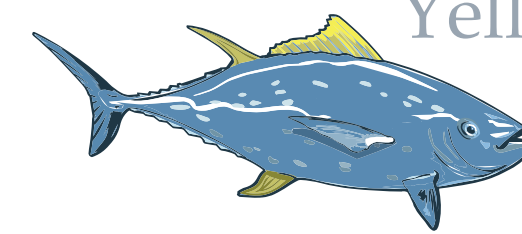
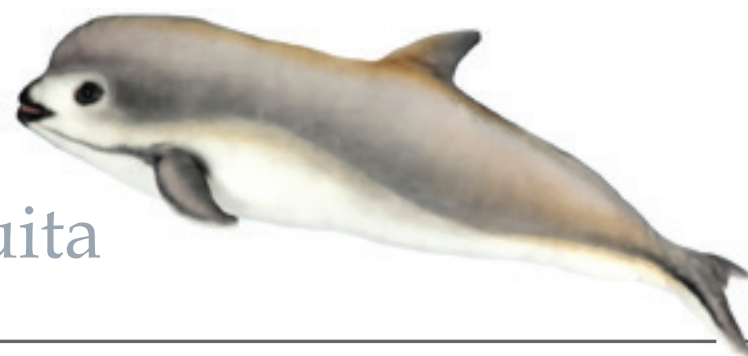


Turtle



Urchin

Vaquita



Yellowfin Tuna



Zooplankton

S Sea Words in the World

Fun FISH Vocabulary for your Ocean Adventures!

There are so many great words you can learn when reading about the ocean, seas and all the animals inside and around. The more words you know about a topic (like the ocean!), the more you'll be able to learn when you read. Here are just some of our favorite words, with facts about fish and other sea animals using these words.



Ocean animals can be either vertebrates, which means they have backbones, or **invertebrates**, which means they don't. Whales and seals are **vertebrates**; sponges, jellyfish, octopuses and starfish are invertebrates.

vertebrates



Snails, shrimp, clams and some kinds of fish eat **algae**, which is a kind of plant that grows under water. (Some humans even eat **algae**!)

invertebrates



There are over 32,000 kinds of fish! They are part of **marine** life. **Marine** means anything related to the ocean or underwater environments.

marine



Did you know that seahorses are actually fish? Unlike other fish, they swim upright and do not have **scales**, which are parts of the fish that bend but are very strong.

scales

currents

bioluminescent



Sunlight does not reach the deepest parts of the ocean, so sea animals who live there are often **bioluminescent**, which means they have special body features that give off light. Other animals are blind and get around with other senses than sight.

algae



Walruses are warm-blooded mammals who breathe air, so the ocean doesn't seem like the best place for them to live. But they have **adaptations**, or changes to their bodies, that help them survive, including flippers to help them get around on ice as well as swim.

adaptations



Jellyfish use **tentacles**, or long, boneless body parts like arms, to get around, though they mostly rely on water **currents**, or the movement of water by wind or temperature.

tentacles

Read All About It!

A Note to **PARENTS** About Using This Section to Support Your Child's Reading Skills

There are multiple ways to use this special Kids Read Curious World section to support your school-aged child's reading, no matter their level!

READING ALOUD.

Even children who can read independently like to be read aloud to, and this can be a fun family activity to do together. There are benefits for children hearing what fluent reading sounds like; the more they hear it, the better they will be able to imitate this kind of reading when alone.

READING TOGETHER.

If your child is practicing reading, you can read one sentence and then ask them to read one sentence. Another approach is for you to read a paragraph and then ask your child to read the same paragraph. They already will have heard how the sentences are supposed to sound, and repeating the words will make the meaning clearer.

ASK QUESTIONS!

Be sure to stop and ask questions – both to see if your child understands, but also any questions that you are curious about. Modeling curiosity is a great way to show that reading can lead to learning.

FIND RELATED BOOKS, ARTICLES AND VIDEOS.

Trust us, librarians LOVE to help parents and kids find books and other materials related to a variety of topics! If there's something you want to read or learn more about, please ask us. BONUS: Research shows that the more a child reads about a particular topic, the easier reading about that topic will be in addition to increasing motivation.

ABOVE ALL ELSE, HAVE FUN!

This summer, make reading as fun as possible! That means letting your child pick out books they are interested in as well as books that might be under their reading level. Reading these "easy" books can increase pleasure as well as fluency and motivate your child to read more.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

More fun ONLINE!

Find more fun articles, ocean facts, coloring pages and more for school-aged children at www.tulsalibrary.org/kids-read-curious-world.

"We Love the Water!"

Did you know that your favorite children's librarians and library staff love the water? See some of their ocean, lake and pool-related photos and stories!

Ocean Coloring Pages

Coloring pages of sea creatures and more!

"My Octopus Arms" Poetry Starter

What would you do with eight arms? This poem starter helps you write an original poem that will make your friends and family laugh!

Make a Sensory Ocean Bottle!

Read instructions for making your own sensory bottle with seashells. Then, go to the Central Library, Hardesty Regional Library, Martin Regional Library, Rudisill Regional Library or the Zarrow Regional Library and ask to use one of the QR codes to 3D print a sea object for your sensory bottle (while supplies last!).