

Strange deep-sea creatures found near Australia

23rd June, 2017



Scientists have found dozens of strange-looking deep sea creatures off the coast of Australia. The underwater beasts live in total darkness four kilometres below the surface of the

ocean. The researchers used a special submarine that could cope with the crushing pressure of being so deep in the ocean. The difficult environment and conditions mean it is a difficult place to explore. Researcher Dr Tim O'hara said: "Australia's deep-sea environment is larger in size than the mainland, and until now, almost nothing was known about life [there]. We're really excited about the discoveries that we've made and are thrilled that we can now share them with the Australian and international public."

The scientists are surprised at how odd-looking many of the sea creatures are. The research team gave them some similarly odd names. They discovered a red coffin fish, a cookie cutter shark, zombie worms, tripod fish and sea pigs. Some of these creatures may be new species. Researchers are particularly interested in the coffin fish. They say it has blue eyes, red fins, and a unique method for catching prey in the dark. The scientists said it uses a "fishing rod tipped with a fluffy bait on top of its head". The researchers also found, "highly concerning levels of rubbish" including, "debris from the days when steamships plied our waters". They said: "The seafloor has 200 years of rubbish on it."

Sources: pulseheadlines.com / washingtonpost.com / nationalgeographic.com

Writing

Humans will eventually destroy the oceans by polluting it. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

dozens / deep sea / underwater / creatures / submarine / environment / mainland / research / odd / shark / blue eyes / catching prey / rubbish / debris / steamships

True / False

- The new sea creatures live in a brightly-lit reef. T / F
- Deep-sea divers swam near the creatures and took photos of them. T / F
- Australia's deep-sea environment is larger than Australia itself. T / F
- The scientists do not want to share the photos yet. T / F
- The scientists were not surprised at the creatures' appearance. T / F
- Some of the creatures may be new species. T / F
- The coffin fish has red eyes and blue fins. T / F
- Scientists found 200-year-old rubbish on the seafloor. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. strange | a. excited |
| 2. total | b. investigate |
| 3. cope with | c. woolly |
| 4. explore | d. comparably |
| 5. thrilled | e. odd |
| 6. similarly | f. waste / garbage |
| 7. catching | g. worrying |
| 8. fluffy | h. complete |
| 9. concerning | i. ensnaring |
| 10. debris | j. manage |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why do so many of the creatures look odd?
- What do you think zombie worms look like?
- What do you think a sea pig looks like?
- What unique ways do sea creatures have of catching prey?
- Which of the creatures are you most interested in?
- What can be done about the 200 years of rubbish on the seafloor?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. off the coast | a. the mainland |
| 2. The underwater beasts live in | b. deep in the ocean |
| 3. four kilometres below the | c. prey |
| 4. the crushing pressure of being so | d. total darkness |
| 5. larger in size than | e. debris |
| 6. surprised at how odd-looking many of | f. of rubbish on it |
| 7. Some of these creatures may be new | g. of Australia |
| 8. a unique method for catching | h. species |
| 9. highly concerning levels of rubbish including | i. the sea creatures are |
| 10. The seafloor has 200 years | j. surface of the ocean |

Discussion – Student B

- How important are our oceans?
- What is your favourite sea creature?
- How interested are you in these new deep-sea creatures?
- What would it be like to live in total darkness?
- What do you know about pressure under the water?
- Why is it so difficult to explore the deep ocean?
- What would it be like to research deep in the oceans?
- What amazing creatures are there in Australia?

Spelling

- off the stcoa of Australia
- researchers used a special rseibnmau
- the crushing reprssue of being so deep
- it is a difficult place to polexre
- excited about the isdoesivrc
- hidertll that we can now share them
- lalirmisy odd names
- They deoiddresv a red coffin fish
- these creatures may be new pcsisee
- a enuiqu method for catching prey
- highly oinccgenr
- levels of rubbish including esdibr

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. e | 2. h | 3. j | 4. b | 5. a |
| 6. d | 7. i | 8. c | 9. g | 10. f |

Role Play

Role A – Oceans

You think oceans are the areas most affected by pollution. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their areas aren't affected as much. Also, tell the others which is the least affected of these (and why): deserts, jungles or arctic areas.

Role B – Deserts

You think deserts are the areas most affected by pollution. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their areas aren't affected as much. Also, tell the others which is the least affected of these (and why): oceans, jungles or arctic areas.

Role C – Jungles

You think jungles are the areas most affected by pollution. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their areas aren't affected as much. Also, tell the others which is the least affected of these (and why): deserts, oceans or arctic areas.

Role D – Arctic Areas

You think arctic areas are the areas most affected by pollution. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their areas aren't affected as much. Also, tell the others which is the least affected of these (and why): deserts, jungles or oceans.

Speaking – Pollution

Rank these with your partner. Put the things most affected by pollution at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| • glaciers | • oceans |
| • reefs | • rivers |
| • jungles | • deserts |
| • arctic areas | • cities |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | T | d | F | e | F | f | T | g | T | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.