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Opening extract from

The Field Guide: Creatures Great and Small

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Key

1. Pygmy seahorse



This small species of seahorse is whitish grey with pink and red warty growths all over. These warts are actually made of coral, which grows on the creature's body to give the seahorse perfect camouflage.

2. Spotted mandarin fish



The spotted mandarin fish is bright green, with dark green spots outlined in orange and black. It might look difficult to miss, but its bright colours make it hard to spot in its natural habitat of different types of algae.

3. Flame angel fish



Flame angel fish live in pairs or small groups and graze the reef eating sponges, algae and tiny crustaceans. Their bright red bodies have rear blue edges and an orange patch in the middle with black stripes.

4. Clown anemonefish



These bright orange, white-striped fish live within the tentacles of some anemones. The fish initially makes a series of brief contacts with the stinging cells after which it can live among them without being harmed.

5. Long-nosed butterfly fish



The black area on the face of the long-nosed butterfly fish conceals its real eyes while a false eye at the back detracts attackers. The rest of the fish is bright yellow. Its long nose is ideal for probing into corals for food.

6. Royal dottyback



Each royal dottyback maintains a territory of several square metres and will attack fish several times its own size if they swim into its territory. The front half of its body is magenta and the rear half bright yellow.

7. Blue damsel fish

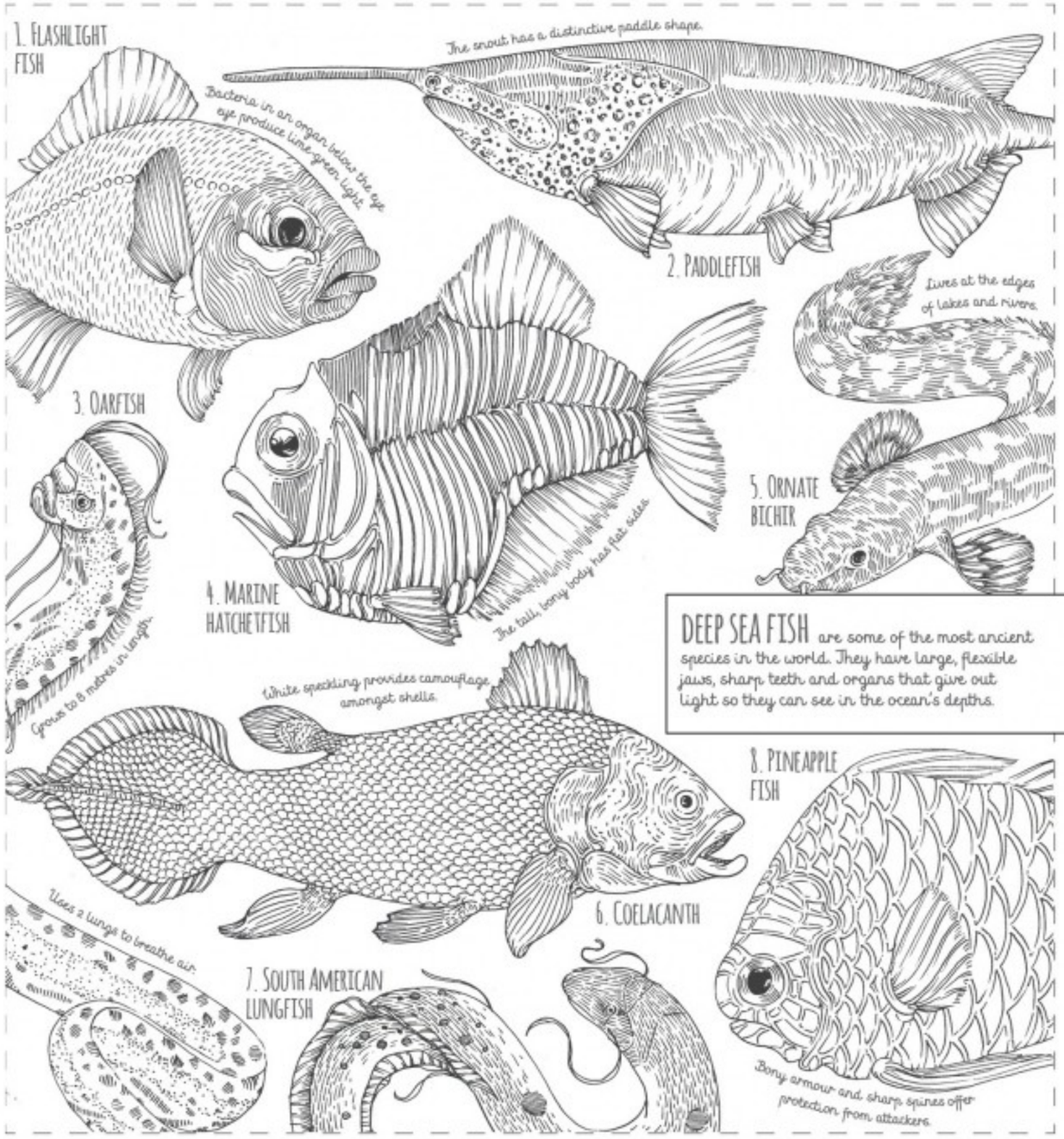


Blue damsel fish live in a community which is close to a 'safe' area. When danger threatens, they dart away to hide among rocks and coral. They get their name from their electric blue colouring but have yellow tails.

8. Text to come



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Key

1. Flashlight fish



The dark-coloured flashlight fish gets its name from the lime-green light produced by bacteria living in an organ below its eye. It can turn this light on and off by using a flap of skin. Down its side are pale blue spots.

2. Paddlefish



Paddlefish have distinctive paddle-shaped snouts. They sweep through the sea with their mouths open, taking in lots of water which they filter to get plankton. Their skin is blueish grey and doesn't have scales.

3. Oarfish



Growing to lengths of 8 metres, oarfish have rarely been seen alive as they live at depths of 200 metres. Their pelvic fins end in a tip which looks like an oar. They have a silver body with dark red fins.

4. Marine hatchetfish



Along both sides of the silver marine hatchetfish is a row of organs which produce light. These can blink on and off to attract food and mates whilst confusing predators. When they're on, the fish appears pink.

5. Ornate bichir



Ornate birchirs live at the edges of lakes and rivers and have the ability to breathe air. They are yellowish in colour with a black net-like pattern. Prey is stalked then, when within range, sucked into the mouth.

6. Coelacanth



The coelacanth was believed to be extinct but it was rediscovered in 1938. Its white speckling provides effective camouflage amongst the shells of the rocky reefs it inhabits. The rest of it is coloured blue-grey.

7. South American lungfish

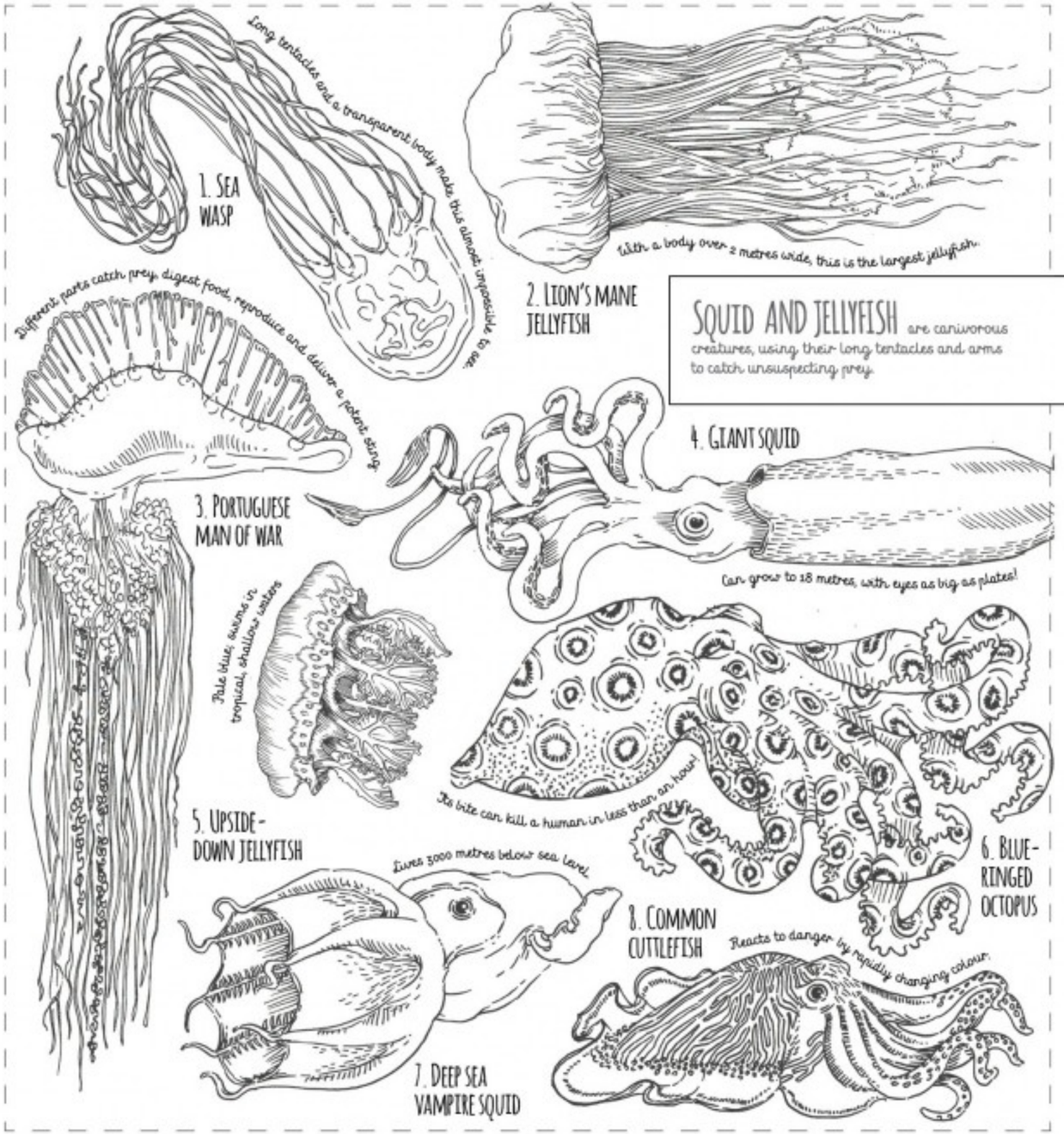


Having small gills, the grey South American lungfish uses 2 lungs to breathe air. In the dry season it survives for several months by coating itself with mucus and resting in a chamber of moist mud.

8. Pineapple fish



Bony armour and sharp spines protect the pineapple fish from attackers. It gets its name from its yellow scales edged with black. Below the jaw is a light organ so that the fish can see when hunting at night.



Key

1. Sea wasp



The sea wasp is also known as the box jellyfish because of the shape of the bell (body). The venom in its long tentacles is capable of killing a human in five minutes. It is almost transparent with a green hue.

2. Lion's mane jellyfish



Unlucky fish easily become paralysed by the barbed stings in the pale blue tentacles of the lion's mane jellyfish. The bell – which grows to over 2 metres wide – is grey with blue or purple rings.

3. Portuguese man of war



The Portuguese man of war is made up of four parts that work together. The pink tentacles deliver a nasty sting to attackers, while another part reproduces and another digests. The top is a gas-filled float.

4. Giant squid



Growing to about 18 metres, the pale orange giant squid has eyes as big as dinner plates! It grabs prey with 2 12-metre arms and 8 tentacles, holding it fast with powerful grey suction cups.

5. Upside-down jellyfish



Unlike most jellyfish, the pale blue bell of the upside-down jellyfish sits below its tentacles. It lives in tropical, shallow waters attached to the sandy sea bed. Pods filled with algae around its mouth give it nutrition.

6. Blue-ringed octopus



Despite its small size of only 10 centimetres, the blue-ringed octopus has a venomous bite which can kill a human in less than an hour. The shade of blue of its body changes according to its mood.

7. Deep sea vampire squid



The deep sea vampire squid lives 3,000 metres below sea level, where the waters are inky black. Its dark colour blends into the background, allowing it to sneak up on prey undetected.

8. Common cuttlefish



Common cuttlefish have orangey pink backs, but can rapidly change colour to confuse predators. They also squirt black ink to further baffle attackers. Using 8 arms and 2 long tentacles, they are able to catch prey easily.

