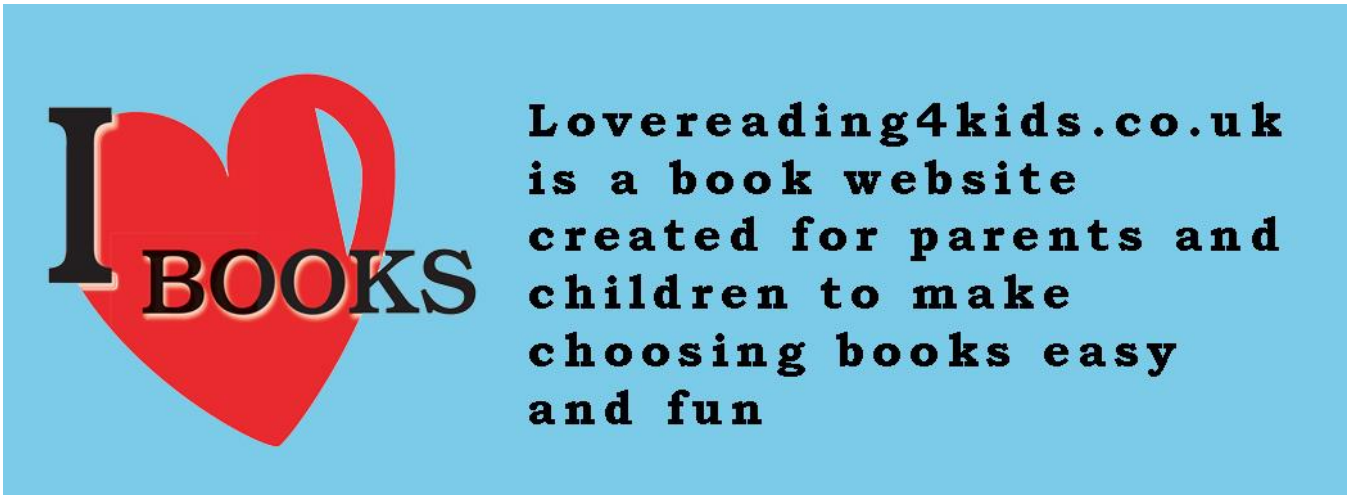


extracts from

Wilderness

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SEA SEARCH

Earth is sometimes called the blue planet because so much of it is covered by water. Some of the strangest animals live in the sea – from the super-sized to the super-small. Dive right in to find out more!



GREAT WHITE SHARK

Sharks have a never-ending supply of teeth. Great whites are so fierce, they even attack each other! The shark's blue-grey colour helps it blend in with the ocean when seen from above and its white belly makes it hard to spot from below – all in all, a master of disguise!

BALLOONFISH

When threatened, the balloonfish sucks in water to make itself look much bigger. Its spiky spines stick out at the same time – that's enough to scare anyone!





BLUE SEA SLUG

This sea slug floats upside down on the sea and is carried by the current.



GREEN SEA TURTLE

Green turtles are among the largest sea turtles in the world. The female does a marathon swim, returning to the same beach that she was hatched to lay her own eggs.

CREATURES OF THE DEEP



GIANT SQUID (Architeuthis)
The mythical-looking giant squid has eyes the size of footballs and can grow over 10m (30ft) long, if not bigger!

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OCEAN AND A SEA?

Seas are smaller than oceans and can usually be found where land meets water.



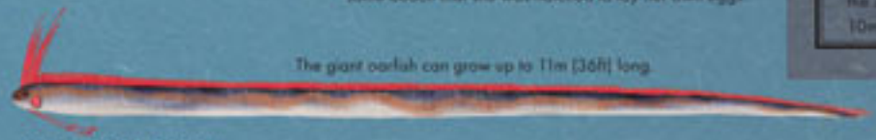
DOLPHIN

The dolphin sheds particles of skin as it plunges and dives – replacing the top layer of skin every few hours.



MANTA RAY

On average, the giant oceanic manta ray measures up to 7m (23ft) wide! They are acrobatic and like to leap out from the water. Manta rays can travel alone or in groups of up to fifty.



The giant oarfish can grow up to 11m (36ft) long.

GIANT OARFISH

It may look like a sea serpent but the giant oarfish is the world's longest bony living fish. Giant oarfish are thought to frequent depths around 1,000m (3,300ft). Their name comes from their long pectoral fins, which resemble oars.

BLUE WHALE

The largest animal on the planet, the blue whale's tongue is as heavy as an elephant!

30m (98ft) long



BOX JELLYFISH

Sometimes called the sea wasp, the box jellyfish has up to 15 tentacles, each of which has around 5,000 stinging cells, making it the most lethal jellyfish in the world!



CLOWNFISH

The clownfish is the only fish that can hide among sea anemones without being stung – handy when escaping predators!

LEAFY SEA DRAGON

Related to the sea horse, the leafy sea dragon's seaweedy outfit keeps it hidden from predators.

SEA ANEMONE

There are more than 1,000 species of sea anemone and they can be found in every ocean in the world.



STARFISH

The starfish pushes one of its two stomachs out of its mouth to feed (that's enough to put you off your food!).



RED HANDFISH

The red handfish uses its fins to 'walk' on the seabed. How handy!

TREK TO THE POLES

THE ARCTIC (North Pole) is made up of a huge frozen sea surrounded by treeless land at the top of the world. The winters are dark but the summer days are long and the melting ocean brings lots of fish for the animals to feed on.

WHO WAS FIRST?

The honour of being first to reach the North Pole was disputed between two explorers, Frederick Cook and Robert Peary, who claimed to have achieved the feat in 1908 and 1909 respectively.

MUSK OX

The musk ox has a thick, shaggy coat to keep it nice and cosy. The male makes a stinky smell to attract a mate!

ARCTIC HARE

This speedy hare can run up to 60kph (40mph) to escape danger. Its coat changes from grey to white in winter.

LAND OF ICE

The North Pole is in the Arctic Ocean. The depth of the ocean at the North Pole is more than 4,000m (13,000ft). The water is almost always covered with ice, which is 2–3m (6–10ft) thick.

NARWHAL

Sometimes called the unicorn of the sea, the male narwhal has a tooth that grows into a spiralled tusk – up to 3m (over 9ft) long!

POLAR BEAR

WALRUS

A thick layer of fat keeps the walrus warm. It has tusks like pickaxes and can weigh over 900kg (2,000lb)!

The Arctic tern migrates from its breeding ground...

...40,000km (25,000mi) to winter in the Antarctic.

THE ANTARCTIC

(South Pole) is a land that is permanently frozen and surrounded by water. It is the coldest, windiest and driest place on the planet. The Earth's lowest temperature was recorded at the South Pole: -91.7°C (-133.8°F)! So, who could possibly live here?

BLACKFIN ICEFISH

Many icefish have blood that acts like antifreeze – this stops the fish from freezing.

WANDERING ALBATROSS

This bird spends its entire life in the air – only coming to land to breed. It can fly up to 16,000km (9,000mi) in a month!

EMPEROR PENGUIN

KILLER WHALE (ORCA)

Although it loves most oceans, the killer whale (or orca) is most often found in the Arctic and Antarctic. A group hunt together, catching seals and even other whales.

The longest recorded male orca was 9.8m (32ft) long.

ANTARCTIC KRILL

These are the main diets on the menu for whales, seals and seabirds. When they gather in big swarms, they make the ocean appear red in colour!

Krill are usually about 5cm (2in) in length.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

The Arctic is ocean surrounded by land.
The Antarctic is land surrounded by ocean.