

SEA LIFE Birmingham

Sea Creatures A to Z

Can you name animals from A to Z?

A is for...

Anthia

Anthias have the ability to change their sex. The dominant female of the group will change her sex to male if there is no male present.

B is for...

Big-Bellied Seahorse

Big-Bellied Seahorses, like other species of seahorse, have eyes that can move independently of each other!

C is for...

Clownfish

All Clownfish are born as boys!

D is for...

Dogfish

Dogfish are actually a type of shark, and our lesser spotted dogfish are native to the UK!

E is for...

Ephyra

Baby Jellyfish are known as ephyra. They form the gap between the polyp and medusa stages of the jellyfish lifecycle.

F is for...

Foxface rabbitfish

This species possesses sharp, venomous spines running across the top and bottom of their body which are capable of inflicting a nasty sting!

G is for...

Gentoo Penguin

Gentoo Penguins are the fastest swimming species of penguin, capable of reaching up to 22mph!

H is for...

Hermit Crab

As Hermit Crabs grow they abandon their shells in favour of new larger ones!

I is for...

(Carettochelys) insculpta – Pig-Nosed Soft Shell Turtle

The Pig-Nosed Soft Shell Turtle's snout has sensory receptors which help it to locate prey in the murky water!

J is for...

Jellyfish

There are approximately 2000 known species of Jellyfish in the world, but only around 70 of these are typically harmful to humans!

K is for...

(Pterapogon) kauderni – Banggai Cardinalfish

The male Banggai Cardinalfish swallows the eggs released by the female and broods them in a special pouch inside his mouth!

L is for...

Lumpsucker

The Lumpsucker gets its name from its ability to suck onto rocks and stick there, even in strong tidal conditions!

M is for...

Multi-Banded Pipefish

Pipefish are in the same family as the seahorses!

N is for...

Nurse Shark

The Nurse Shark is one of the few species that is able to sit at the bottom of the sea floor as it is able to self-pump water over its gills to continue breathing!

O is for...

Octopus

The only hard part of an Octopus is its beak, meaning that if this can fit through a gap, then so can the whole Octopus!

P is for...

Piranha

Piranhas have a ferocious reputation due to their sharp teeth, strong jaws and participation in feeding frenzy, but in reality they are much calmer, eat only a small amount of food and are not what people expect!

Q is for...

(Entacmea) quadricolor – Bubble Tip Anemone

Anemones provide homes for clownfish who hide in there for protection from predators!

R is for...

Razorfish

Razorfish look as if they are swimming upside-down with their tails up in the air and heads down towards the sea bed. This adaptation is perfect for hiding amongst sea urchin spines!

S is for...

Sand Tiger Shark

Sand Tiger Sharks have been known to take gulps of air from the surface of the water to help their buoyancy when they hunt for prey!

T is for...

Turtle

The Green Sea Turtles name comes from the colour of their fat, not the colour of their shell.

U is for...

Undulate Ray

Undulate Rays lay eggs known as Mermaids Purses, which look like leathery pouches!

V is for...

(Anisotremus) virginicus – Pork Fish

Pork Fish are often referred to as grunts, due to the grunting noise they make by grinding their teeth together!

W is for...

Wolffish

Wolffish use their fang-like teeth and crushing molars to crunch through shells of shellfish and crustaceans!

X is for...

(Zebrasoma) xanthurum – Purple Tang

Tangs have a single spine or 'scalpel' on each side of their body, by the base of their tail. This is used for defence or dominance!

Y is for...

Yellow Tang

Although the Yellow Tang is thought of as endemic to Hawaii, its distribution has extended and is now much larger!

Z is for...

Zebra Moray Eel

Moray Eels have an incredible way of hunting. They have a second jaw that rests deeper in their bodies which shoot out into their main jaws when trapping prey!