

Primary Worksheets: Seahorse



The seahorse is a tiny type of fish that gets their name from their horselike head! These creatures live in shallow tropical waters worldwide but not in colder areas. There are over 30 different kinds of seahorse in the world.

Their bodies are covered in tiny, spiny plates and do not have scales like other fishes. They swim upright usually among seaweed and other plants. They use their tail to grasp objects, allowing them to anchor themselves to plants.

Seahorses are masters of camouflage! They can be very difficult to spot because of their size and ability to change colour. This helps them avoid predators such as crabs and other fish that are larger than them. They do not hunt for their food. They wait for their small prey to pass by and suck them up with their mouth!



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The seahorse has a different life cycle to other kinds of fish. A female seahorse lays dozens to hundreds of eggs in a pouch on the male seahorse's abdomen. It is very similar to the pouch of a kangaroo, used for carrying their young.

The eggs in the pouch stay for up to 45 days until they are ready to hatch. Eggs do not get fertilized until they are in the male's pouch. This gives more time for the female seahorse to make more eggs. A baby seahorse is called a fry!

Thousands of seahorses will come out of the male's pouch. Unfortunately, only a few seahorse manage to survive into adulthood. When they are born, they will cling on to each other but tend to get carried away by the ocean current. They can't eat the same food as their parents, so they have limited choices.



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Seahorses are bad swimmers but have great eyesight. Even though they can move their fins quickly, they still aren't fast! The smallest seahorse species measures at 11mm, smaller than you think! The largest seahorse species measures at around 35cm called the big-bellied seahorse.

Seahorses tend to live alone and not in schools like other fishes. They will live in a small area for most of their lives. The area can be smaller than the size of your desk!

They are in danger of becoming extinct because of human activity. Pollution and overfishing are affecting their population. Seahorse can be kept as pets.

Another reason why the seahorse is in danger is because they are used in traditional Asian medicine for growth.



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Answer the questions.

What is a seahorse?

Why are they called seahorses?

What do they like to eat?



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Answer the questions.

What does a male seahorse do?

Why do many baby seahorse's die?

Why are they endangered?

