

Mermaid Tales by Debbie Dadey

Glossary:



Book Five: The Lost Princess

bioluminescent plankton: Dinoflagellates are tiny organisms that flash a bright light when disturbed.

black dragonfish: The female dragonfish is four times as big as the male.

common sea fan: Sea fans can grow large enough to make a comfortable bed for any mermaid!

common sea squirt: The sea squirt passes several quarts of water per hour through its body. It filters out plankton and leaves the water much cleaner.

dolphins: The common dolphin is very active and acrobatic. It can swim twenty- five miles per hour!



eyelight fish: This small fish has a large light organ under each eye that can be turned on and off using a black membrane like an eyelid.

fry: Small fish are called fry.

hagfish: The hagfish can produce enough slime to fill a bucket in just a few minutes! It has special slime pores on both sides of its body.

herring: This fish has a silvery body and forked tail.



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humpback whale: Humpback whales grow to be fifty foot long and weigh up to thirty-three tons. They live in every ocean, except in the extreme north and south.

Jenny Hanivers: Fake mermaids were nicknamed Jenny Hanivers many years ago.

lizardfish: This fish loves deep water and has a mouth full of needle sharp teeth. Even its tongue has teeth!

manta ray: The manta is the biggest ray. It eats plankton and small fish. It is also known as the devil ray. They grow up to twenty-six feet across and can weigh four thousand pounds.



mollusk: This group of marine animals includes oysters, sea slugs, and octopuses.



nautilus: This living fossil uses jet propulsion to swim, forcing water out a tube to move in any direction.

octopus: The dumbo octopus likes deep water and eats worms and snails.



oyster: The Atlantic thorny oyster has a spiny shell to protect it from predators.

sea slug: The sea hare, a type of sea slug, releases purple or white ink into the water if someone bothers it.

vampire squid: This is the only squid that lives its entire life in deep water. If an enemy approaches, it flashes its light organs and ejects glowing mucus.



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Book Six: The Secret Sea Horse

Atlantic flyingfish: This fish can actually beat its tail to raise itself out of the water.

black lip oyster: Pearl likes to eat this mollusk because she hopes to find a black pearl. Oysters have long been used as food. There are over 50,000 species of mollusks.

cookiecutter shark: This shark has glowing green bioluminescent lights on its belly.

creeping comb jellies: These jellies live on the bottom of the ocean and are more flattened than other jellies.

eyelight fish: This fish has a light organ under each eye. In real life, it is a blue-green light that can be turned off and on by closing an eyelid like membrane.

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fish eggs: Fish eggs are called caviar and are considered a delicacy by some people.

green humphead parrotfish: This brightly colored fish's teeth form a parrot-like beak!

kelp: Kelp is a kind of seaweed. One type of kelp is the sea palm, which has stalks with branches that look a bit like a mini palm tree.



kelp anemone: This anemone is unusual because it moves. It will drift or crawl onto seaweed to catch floating prey.



lionfish: In one quick movement, the lionfish stuns its victims and swallows them.

lizardfish: The highfin lizardfish typically lives in the very deep ocean, where the water stays about thirty-nine degrees Fahrenheit.

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manta: The huge manta rays are sociable with divers and have been known to dance with them. In real life, they live near the surface of tropical waters.

mother of pearl: An oyster will sometimes produce a fine white layer inside it's shell to protect itself from an irritant. This layer is mother of pearl.

octopus: The giant octopus squirts a cloud of purple ink when it's scared.



orange sea pen: This sea animal has a central stem with branches on either side and looks like an old-fashioned quill pen.

passion flower feather star: This sea creature is related to a starfish, but has eighteen to twenty arms of different lengths, making it look like a red flower.



pearl: Pearls form in oysters when sand gets stuck inside their

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shell. The oyster will coat the sand with a beautiful coat of nacre. Jewelry is often made out of pearls.

pineapplefish: Armor plates completely cover this fish. It glows orange during the day and blue-green at night.

sablefish: Sablefish is probably not the best source for food because it takes fourteen years to replace each fish.

sailor's eyeball: This seaweed with a strange name looks like a dark green marble.



seaweed: In shallow water, red and brown seaweeds provide shelter and food for sea animals.

slender snipe eel: This long, skinny eel has jaws that look just like a bird's bill.

wolf-fish: This scary looking fish gets new teeth every year!



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Book Seven: Dream of the Blue Turtle

cleaner wrasse-This little silvery blue fish spends its whole life cleaning other fish, turtles, and sometimes even divers.

clown fish-If you have ever seen the movie, Finding Nemo, you know that Nemo was a clown fish. This brightly colored fish is able to live among anemones. Other fish are stung by the anemones tentacles, but not the clown fish.



eel-The ribbon eel is black with a yellow fin when it is young which changes to bright blue with a yellow snout and lower jaw as it gets older. Later, they turn yellow.



gray heron-This bird lives near water in Europe, Asia, Japan, Indonesia, Africa, and Madagascar.



humpback whale-Humpbacks are acrobats of the ocean, breaching (jumping out of the ocean) and slapping the water with their tails.



killer whale-Killer whales, or orcas, are known for their black and white markings. They are the largest member of the dolphin family.

leatherback turtle-Leatherback turtle backs are flexible and rubbery, unlike all other sea turtles that have hard, bony shells.

manta ray-The manta ray is the largest ray, but usually harmless to people. The southern stingray's venom causes severe pain.



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mauve stinger jellyfish-This stinging jellyfish makes a light show when its mucus (snot) glows.

mollusks-This group of marine animals includes oysters, octopuses, and sea slugs.



mother of pearl-Mother of Pearl is the hard inner layer of the shell of a pearl oyster.



pearls-Pearls are often used in jewelry. They are made when oysters coat a grain of sand with a substance called nacre.

porcupine fish-When this fish is scared, it pumps water into its body and looks like a prickly soccer ball.

sea grapes-This is a type of seaweed that has round sacs that look very much like grapes.



sea lettuce-Animals and humans alike eat this plant that grows on seashores and in shallow waters.

seal-The common seal, or harbor seal, lives in the North Pacific and north Atlantic.



seaweed-Spectacular seaweed usually grows in very deep water. This type of seaweed is purple-blue when it is young.

shark-The sandtiger shark looks very scary with its sharp teeth, but it is actually quite peaceful and is often used in aquariums.

shell-If you find a spiral shell on the beach, it is probably a slug or snail shell. The shell is for protection of their soft bodies.



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shrimp and krill-Shrimps are relatives of crabs and lobsters.



starfish-Most starfish are bottom dwellers. While most starfish have five arms, there is a seven-arm starfish too.

tube sponge-This sponge is usually pinkish violet and often grows as bunches of tubes that are joined at the bottom.

Book Eight: Hidden Treasure in Trident City

acorn barnacle: The adult acorn barnacles fixes itself to one spot using a cement-like substance.

Australian giant cuttlefish: The Australian giant cuttlefish is the largest of the one hundred cuttlefish. It grows up to five feet and resembles an octopus.



bioluminescent plankton: This tiny organism makes bright flashes of light. In large groups, they make glowing seas.

blackdragon: The Pacific blackdragon is a creepy bottom dweller with dagger-sharp teeth and glowing photospores on its belly.

bootlace worm: This very skinny worm is one of the longest animals known. It can get up to 33 feet long. Most people can't throw a ball that far.



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coffinfish: This fish looks more like a pink balloon than a coffin!

common blackdevil: This deep sea fish has a glowing lure and long sharp teeth.

common fangtooth: The huge spike-like teeth of this fish give it a most scary look!

creeping comb jelly: The creeping comb jelly is a bottom-dweller and lives on the orange sea star.



conch: This is a common name for the large spiral shell of a sea snail.

dead man's fingers: This soft coral does look a bit like stubby fingers!

Devonshire cup coral: This cup-shaped coral attaches to a rock or shipwreck.

dogfish: The piked dogfish is actually a shark. It is very slow growing and can live to be one hundred years old.

goblin shark: The goblin shark should be called the unicorn shark because of its pointed snout.

jellyfish: The Moon jellyfish can be found in almost every part of the ocean. It is shaped like a small saucer with fine tentacles, like fringe, hanging from it. The upside-down jellyfish is often mistaken for being dead. Some jellyfish actually glow!



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jewel anemones: Jewel anemones sometimes live on underwater cliffs and create a beautiful display when grouped together. They can be almost any color, but often appear as yellow and pink.

kelp: Sea otters often live in undersea kelp forests.



killer whale: This is the largest member of the dolphin family.



sides and belly.

lanternfish: The spotted lanternfish is a small fish that can put on a fabulous light display from the photospores along its

lizardfish: The reef lizardfish darts out from its perch on rocks or corals to seize a fish for dinner. Its large mouth lets it swallow quite large fish.



manta ray: This huge ray can leap out of the water and is known to be friendly with divers.



mollusks: This group of marine animals includes oysters, sea slugs, and octopuses.

mother of pearl: Mother of pearl, or nacre, is the inside layer of pearl oysters.

octopus: The blue-ringed Octopus lives in the tropical Pacific and Indian Oceans. Its spit can kill a human!



pearl: Pearls are actually formed inside an oyster!

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peanut worm: This bottom-living creature looks more like a sausage than a peanut.

sawfish: The endangered smalltooth sawfish is a ray with a long, flat sawlike snout.

sea apple: The sea apple has a red and purple body and is often used in aquariums because it is so colorful.

sea cucumbers: This animal crawls along the bottom of the sea, sucking up sediment as it moves along.

sea pen: The slender sea pen grows on the bottom of sheltered sea lochs near Scotland and Norway. They resemble a feather in appearance.

sea slug: The bright color and bad taste of the Chromodorid sea slug protects it from predators.

seaweed: Seaweed is used for food, cosmetics, and medicine, fertilizer, and even in beer!



shark: The whale shark is the largest fish in the world. Its mouth is so big, a human could fit inside. Luckily, it only eats plankton and small fish.

vampire squids: These squids live at the bottom of the ocean and have light organs on the tips of their arms.

white zoanthid: White zoanthids love to cover rocks, wrecks, and even worm tubes.



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whales: The blue whale is probably the biggest animal that has ever lived. Its call is louder than the sound a jet airplane makes when it takes off! (It is not a fish.)