

BARNACLE: Adult barnacles spend their lives attached to rocks, ships, or even whales.

**BARRACUDA:** The great barracuda is a very fast fish. Adults usually swim alone, but the young often stay together in groups called shoals.

**BLACK MARLIN:** Black marlins like warm water and can swim at eighty miles per hour, which is faster than cars travel on most highways.

**BLUE BUTTONS:** If you see what you think is a piece of blue plastic floating on the ocean's surface, it just might be a group of this unusual creature. The circular center that keeps it afloat is surrounded by stinging tentacles. Luckily, the sting isn't too powerful.

CARNATION CORAL: This colorful reef animal can be pink, red, orange, yellow, or white.



www.debbiedadey.com

CDebbie Dadey 2018 Mermaid Tales are published by Simon and Schuster;

Written by Debbie Dadey and illustrated by Tatevik Avakyan.



**JOHN VERON:** This Australian man, also known as Charlie Vernon, has been nicknamed the "King of Coral" for his extensive studies of coral reefs all over the world. He is not really a merman.

**COCKLE:** The common edible cockle has a ribbed shell and lives on the ocean floor.

**CONCH:** Large-size sea snails and their shells are called conch. The beautiful shells come to a point at both ends.

**COOKIECUTTER SHARK:** This shark has a glowing green belly that attracts other fish. It also has razor-sharp teeth to take a cookie-cutter size bite out of them!

**CUTTLEFISH:** There are one hundred twenty different kinds of cuttlefish. The largest is the Australian Giant Cuttlefish, but it is still only slightly bigger than a person's head.

**DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS:** Divers must be careful not to go too deep in the water too quickly. Diving too fast can give them this sickness.

**FLAGFISH:** This type of pupfish is found in Florida. It's sometimes called the American flagfish because of the red and blue stripes on its body.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**GREAT SCALLOP:** The great scallop is also known as the king scallop. It can move quickly through the water by clapping the two parts of its shell together.

**HERRING:** The Atlantic herring live in large groups, or shoals, and come to the surface at night to eat plankton.

HORSESHOE CRAB: The horseshoe crab is a close relative of spiders.

**KELP:** Kelp is the large brown seaweed that grows in underwater forests.

**LEVEE:** A levee is a raised bank of dirt that is used to hold back water.

MANTA RAY: Manta rays can weigh more than a car and be wider than most people are tall.

**OCTOPUS:** The common octopus is an expert in camouflage. It can almost instantly change its skin color to match its surroundings.

**OYSTER THIEF:** This seaweed likes to live on oyster shells. As the oyster thief grows it fills with gas and sometimes lifts itself and the oyster off the sea floor. Then the tide will carry both the oyster thief and the oyster away.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**PASSION FLOWER:** The passion flower is a feather star with about twenty arms. It looks like a flower and likes to live in reefs and bays.

**PILOT FISH:** The pilot fish swims with large fish, sharks, and rays. It eats the scraps from the bigger creatures and also eats parasites off their bodies.

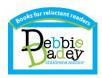
**SEA BAMBOO:** Sea bamboo is the largest of the African west coast kelps. It can grow as tall as a five story building.

**SEA LION:** The California sea lion is a favorite performer in marine aquariums. Sea lions eat fish and squid.

**SEAWEED:** There are thousands of different types of seaweed. The velvet horn seaweed is covered with fine short hairs that make it look fuzzy.

**SHARK:** The tawny nurse shark is often photographed because it is usually very peaceful. But it will bite if someone threatens it!

**SHARPNOSE SEVENGILL SHARK:** This rarely seen shark has a pointed snout and lives in deep water.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**SPONGE:** The Mediterranean bath sponge grows as a round gray cushion and used to be captured for use as a kitchen sponge for humans.

**SPOOKFISH:** This deep sea fish is also known as a barreleye because of its unusual barrelshaped eyes.

SQUID: The common squid is tube-like with large eyes. It can get about as long as your arm.

**STALKED JELLYFISH:** While most jellyfish float freely in the water, the stalked jellyfish likes to attach itself to a stalk of seaweed or seagrass.

**STEAM VENT:** Hot water comes from holes at the bottom of the sea. You may recognize them on land as hot springs or geysers. Sometimes the underwater vents cause growths called black or white smokers.

TIGER SHARKS: Young tiger sharks have dark stripes that fade as they get older.

**TRIANGULAR BUTTERFLY FISH:** This triangular-shaped fish often swims in pairs and eats Christmas tree worms (worms that live on coral and are shaped like a Christmas tree).



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**VENUS COMB:** This snail looks surprisingly like a human comb.

VIPERFISH: This deep-water fish has huge barbed teeth and a tiny forked tail.

**WATER FLEA:** For such a teeny, tiny creature, the water flea has a very large eye. The water flea's body isn't even as long as a human eyelash!



#### **Book Eighteen: Fairy Chase**

ALGAE: A type of algae named Emiliania huxleyi smells like rotten eggs!

**ALBATROSS:** The black-browed albatross is also called the black-browed mollymawk. Groups of them can often be seen following ships.

**BARREL SPONGE:** The barrel sponge grows big enough that a person could actually fit inside it!

**BEADLET ANEMONE:** If you see a blob of what looks like red or green jelly on a rocky shoreline it might just be a beadlet anemone, which has stinging cells at the top of its body. Luckily, the sting isn't harmful to humans.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**BROWN BOOBY:** This bird is a spectacular diver, dropping from heights of up to a hundred feet high, which is almost as high as three telephone poles stacked on top of each other.

**BROWN PELICAN:** The brown pelican is the heaviest sea bird to fish by diving into the water.

**CLAM:** There are more than 14,000 types of clams and their relatives. They have a two piece shell, held together by a hinge.

**CLOWN FISH:** Clownfish, or anemonefish, are known for being bright orange, but they can also be yellow, red, or black. They have a symbiotic relationship with anemones.

**CONGER EEL:** This snake-like fish likes to hide in holes. Many divers see them sticking their heads out of wrecked ships.

**COMB JELLY:** The predatory comb jelly has long arms, or tentacles, that are sticky to help it catch food.

**EELGRASS:** This seagrass has long ribbon-like leaves and grows in both cold waters and tropical seas.

**FAIRY TERN:** This bird is completely white, except for its black eyes and bill. It is also called the white tern.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**FRIGATEBIRD:** The great frigatebird has extremely long wings and can soar for hours above the ocean with just a flick of its wings. Males have bright red throat pouches, which they use to attract female birds.

**HAGFISH:** This long fish can tied itself in knots! It spends most of the time in the mud, but regularly squeezes slime out of its body.

**HORNWRACK:** This animal is often mistaken for brown seaweed and looks like clumps of brown lettuce.

**KELP:** Giant kelp can grow amazingly fast. It can grow longer than two school buses in just one year!

**LAUGHING GULL:** This black-capped bird often follows fishing boats and can be found on beaches, looking for food.

**LEAF WORM:** Giant leaf worms live along the west coast of the United States. They are a small flatworm with a round shape and brownish color.

**LICHEN:** Lichen can grow in some of the most hostile environments in the word, including the heat of the Skeleton Coast.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**MANTA RAY:** This is the biggest ray in the world, but don't worry. It only eats plankton and small fish.

**MOSS:** Seaside moss grows along the shore and is sometimes covered by high tides.

**OCTOPUS:** The smart giant octopus squirts a cloud of purple ink when it is frightened.

**PADDLE WEED:** This type of seaweed is an important food for the dugong.

**PETREL:** This sea bird only goes on land to have babies. They can remain in the air for days at a time.

**PHYTOPLANKTON:** Phytoplankton are tiny green floating plants that make up much of the world's oxygen and is food for many ocean creatures.

**PURPLE SEA URCHIN:** The sea urchin's favorite food is giant kelp and it has been responsible for killing off large parts of the kelp forest near the North American coast.

**RISSO'S DOLPHIN:** This large blackish-blue dolphin has a square head and is also called a gray grampus.

**SEA HARE:** The small sea hare emits a smelly purple ink to keep away predators.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**SEA LETTUCE:** This green seaweed grows on seashores and is a popular food for humans in some parts of the world.

**SEA LILY:** Sea lilies cannot swim, but can drag themselves along the sea bed with their arms. **SEA PINK:** This bright pink flower grows along seashores.

**SEA SNAKE:** The olive sea snake can be brown or olive-brown and lives in the Indian Ocean and western Pacific. It is nosy and often approaches divers, but it will bite if provoked!

**SHARK:** The scalloped hammerhead shark has an unusual t-shaped, or hammer-shaped, head.

**SPECTACULAR SEAWEED:** This colorful seaweed grows in deep water. Young plants are a purple-blueish color.

**SPERM WHALE:** The sperm whale is the largest of the toothed whales and has a huge, squared head.

**SPONGE:** The Mediterranean Bath sponge is soft and was once used as bath sponges by humans.

WHALE: The dwarf sperm whale is the smallest whale. It is smaller than some dolphins.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



WHITE SEA WHIP: Sea whips look like long thin fingers growing out of the seabed.

WOLF FISH: This big-headed fish gets new dog-like teeth every year!



#### **Book Nineteen: The Narwhal Mystery**

**BLUEFIN:** The bluefin is the largest of the tuna. Its body is made for speed. It can even pull in its fins to go faster!

**CANDY-STRIPE FLATWORM:** This cream flatworm has red stripes and lives in rocky areas of the ocean.

**CORAL:** This animal lives in groups. They fix themselves to the ocean floor and make skeletons for support. One touch from a human can damage them!

**DOLPHINS:** Dolphins and porpoises are often confused. Porpoises are usually smaller with littler mouths than dolphins. The playful bottlenose dolphin's color varies from light blue to gray, with a paler underside.

**KELP:** Kelp is brown seaweed.

NARWHAL: Narwhals are a type of porpoise, mostly known for a long unicorn-like tooth.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**OCTOPUS:** The Dumbo octopus eats worms and snails. It's ear-like fins give it an almost cartoon-like look.

**ORANGE SEA PEN:** This creature lives in sand and mud. It resembles an old-fashioned quill pen (a sharpened feather used to write).

**PORPOISE:** The harbor porpoise often lives in the shallow waters of harbors and bays. While they can dive over six hundred feet down, they must come to the surface to breathe.

**SEA HORSE:** Sea horses have rigid bodies made up of bony plates. Their heads resemble a horse's. The pygmy sea horse only grows to be one inch long!

**SEAWEED:** Seaweed floats freely in the ocean and can make its own food.

**SHARK:** The whale shark is the largest fish in the world.

**SPONGE:** This creature has no muscles and appears to be full of holes. Before the invention of plastic sponges, this animal was used to wash dishes!

**SWORDFISH:** This fast-moving fish has a long, flat bill with a sword-like appearance.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**WALRUS:** Walruses have two tusks jutting downward from their mouth. It's skin has wrinkles, but almost no hair.

WARTY FROGFISH: This fish looks like it is covered with warts! It is also called the clown

frogfish.

#### **Book Twenty: Winter Princess**

ATLANTIC GUITARFISH: This ray uses its spineless tail for swimming, like a shark.

**ALTANTIC TORPEDO RAY:** This ray is the largest electric ray. Electricity is stored in the ray's wings, which it uses to stun its prey.

**BANJO RAY:** Also known as a fiddler ray, the banjo ray lives along the coasts of Australia.

**BLACK DRUM:** This fish is a bottom dweller. It actually makes a bongo drum beat sound when searching for a mate.

**BLACK MARLIN:** The black marlin is one of the fastest fish on the planet. The female usually weighs hundreds of pounds more than the male.

BLOBFISH: Living in deep waters off Australia, this fish truly does look like a blob!

**CATFISH:** The gafftopsail sea catfish lives in the Atlantic Ocean and has very long whiskerlike barbels.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**COCONUT:** Coconuts are a hard fruit on the outside, but the inside is part solid and part milk.

**CORAL:** Coral reefs may not look alive, but the multi-colored skeleton is made by small saclike animals. One quarter of all ocean species depend on reefs for food and shelter.

**CORNETFISH:** This long, skinny fish is related to the sea horse.

**COMMON SKATE:** Also called the blue skate because of its bluish underside, the common skate is the largest and heaviest of the European rays. It is extinct in some areas.

CONCH: The spiral shell of this mollusk is sometimes used as a horn.

**FRY:** Baby fish are referred to as fry.

**GLASS SQUID:** This mollusk has light organs in its arms and eyes. It is also known as the transparent cockatoo squid.

**KILLER SEAWEED:** This is actually a type of seaweed that is used in marine aquariums. It grows quickly on the seabed and is toxic to grazers.

**GRAY HERON:** The grey heron is the largest heron in Europe. It has a long neck, long yellow legs, and pointed bill. It is often photographed for its beauty.

**KELP:** Giant kelp is the largest seaweed.

**KILLER WHALE:** The killer whale is the largest dolphin. Also called an orca, it is easily recognized by its black and white markings.

**KNOTTED WRACK:** This brown seaweed can be found on rocky seashores in cooler climate. In the summertime, it may turn yellow.

**MAUVE STINGER JELLYFISH:** This jellyfish can put on beautiful light shows, but don't get too close because its stingers hurt!



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**MOTHER OF PEARL:** Some mollusks make a coating for the inside of their shells. This mother of pearl, or nacre, protects the mollusks. In the past the nacre was used to make jewelry.

**NEPTUNE GRASS:** Neptune grass is also known as Mediterranean tapeweed. Neptune grass beds can be thousands of years old.

**PLANKTON:** These small creatures cannot swim. They float freely in the ocean. They are the main food source for many large ocean creatures, including whales.

**PEARL:** Bead-like pearls are formed in oysters when a grain of sand irritates the inside of their shells. They coat the sand with nacre, forming pearls.

**SAND DOLLAR:** When dead, sand dollars are white with a five-pointed shape on their back. Dark purple spines cover the star design on living sand dollars.

**SEA HORSE:** The sea horse belongs to a genus of fish called Hippocampus. The Ancient Greek word *hippos* meant horse and the word *kampos* meant sea monster.

**SEA SLUG:** Sea slugs have an amazing sense of smell which they can use to locate food in a maze.

**SHARK:** There are more than four hundred types of sharks. While some people think sharks are bad, they are actually important in regulating the fish population.

SPECTACULAR SEAWEED: This colorful seaweed grows in deep waters.

**SPOTTED EAGLE RAY:** The pattern of spots on this ray's back (dorsal surface) makes it one of the prettiest rays. It can make spectacular leaps out of the water.

SOUTHERN BEACH MOSS: This moss grows on coastal rocks.

**TRUMPET FISH:** This long thin fish has a mouth that looks like the mouthpiece on a trumpet. While Kiki is able to make music with a trumpet fish, in the wild they are very quiet.



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018



**VENUS COMB:** The shell of this sea snail looks like a spiky comb.

Please note: due to editing at the time of publishing it is possible that some items may be added or deleted from the stories. In fact, titles may even change!



www.debbiedadey.com

©Debbie Dadey 2018