

Deep-Sea Wildlife

The largest wildlife habitat on Earth can be found in the depths of the sea. No plants can grow because there is no sunlight. Yet many extraordinary creatures live here in the vast blackness. Some of the animals that live in the deep feed on the bodies and remains that sink down from the surface. Other fish have enormous mouths and long teeth and can swallow anything that swims by. Animals that live in the deep can survive using little oxygen and can also go months without a meal.

Hundreds of deep-sea fish can create their own light through chemical reactions including anglerfish, slickheads and lanternfish. This is called **bioluminescence**. They use their light to guide them through the darkness or attract prey. Some creatures on the sea floor like sea anemones, sea cucumbers, worms, crabs and prawns sieve through mud searching for tiny pieces of food. Squids, shrimps and jellyfish can also be found on the deep-sea floor.



Lanternfish

The lanternfish lives in the dark water hundreds of metres below the surface. It feeds on tiny floating plants and animals and watches for predators with its large eyes. It has spots along its body that glow. Scientists believe that it uses these spots to see food or confuse other fish.

Questions

a) Why can't plants grow at the bottom of the sea?

b) Write down **three** different creatures that live on the deep-sea floor.

c) Explain in your own words the word '**bioluminescence**'.

d) Write down **three** facts that you have learned from this article.
