

Ocean Animals

Today we will be...

Thinking about how ocean animals are suited to their ocean habitats.



Which of these two animals can live in the ocean?
Why?



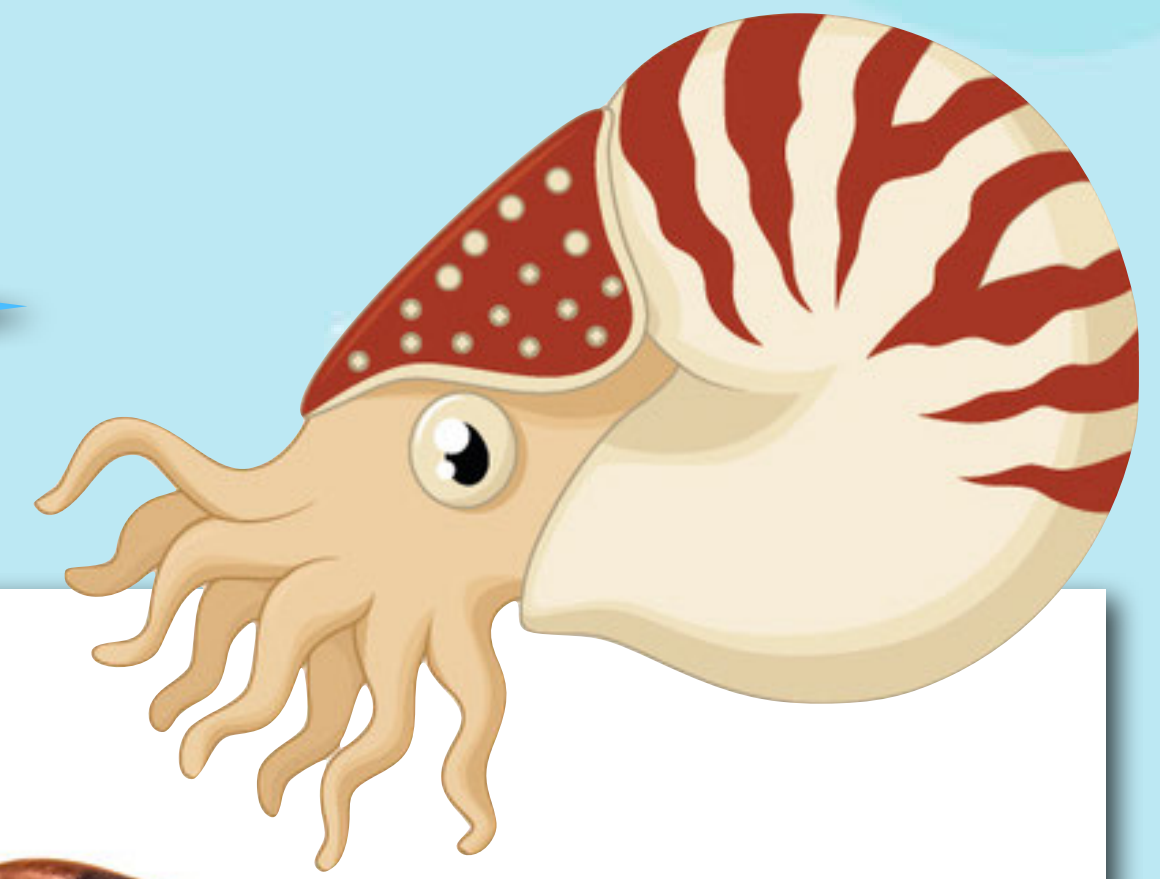


This great white shark **can** live in the ocean. It has gills which let it breathe underwater. It has a tail and fins to help it swim in the water. It can eat by catching fish and other ocean animals in its teeth as it's swimming.

This seagull **cannot** live in the ocean. It is a bird so it needs to breathe air. It has wings to help so it fly in the air to find food. It lives near the coast so it can catch small fish to eat.



How about these two animals? Which can live in the ocean and why?



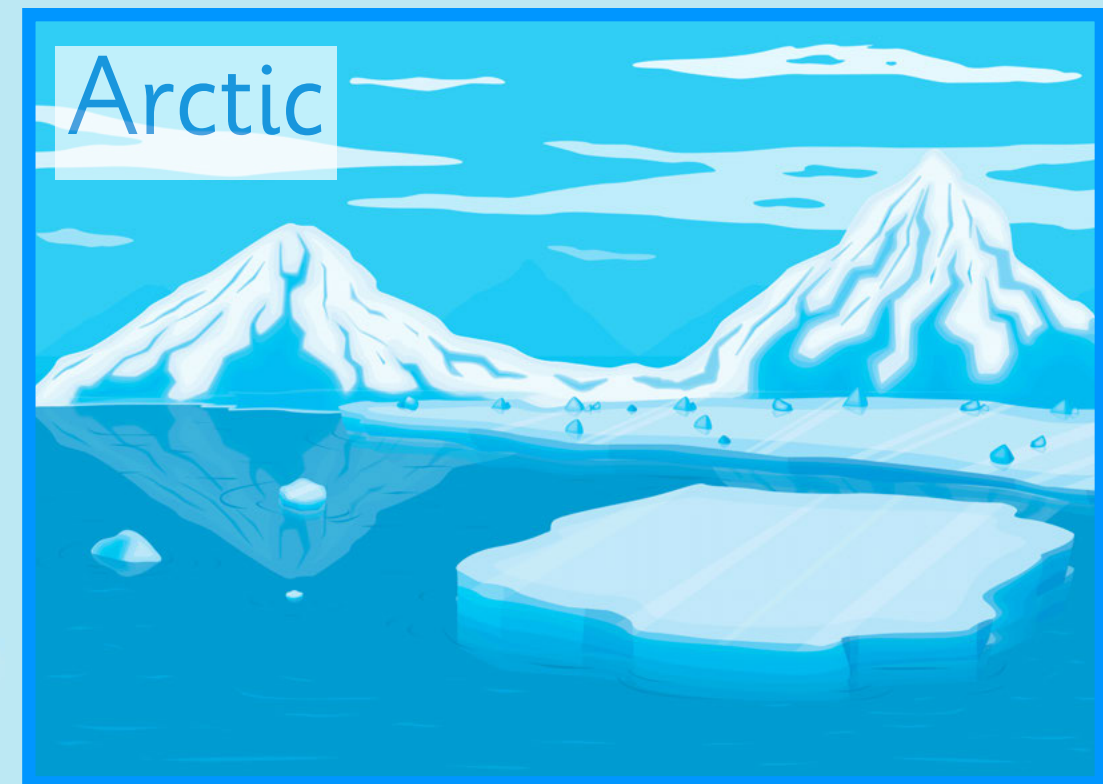
This bee **cannot** live in the ocean. Bees need flowers for nectar and these flowers do not grow underwater. Bees cannot breathe underwater and they wouldn't be able to move easily as their wings are meant to be used in air, not water.



This crab **can** live underwater. It has gills so that it can breathe underwater. It can use its claws to catch other ocean animals to eat. Its shell helps to protect it from predators.

Animals live in lots of different **habitats**. The ocean is a very big habitat that thousands of different types of animals live in. All animals who live in the ocean are suited to living underwater and the ocean provides everything they need to stay alive.

Here are some other types of habitat. How many more can you think of?





Cows and sheep live in a field habitat. These animals need to eat lots of grass every day so a field allows them to graze as much as they want. Cows and sheep are mammals so they need to breathe air.

These monkeys live in a rainforest habitat. Their long arms, legs and tails help them to swing quickly through the trees. The trees also provide them with plenty of fruit to eat and give them a place to escape from predators.

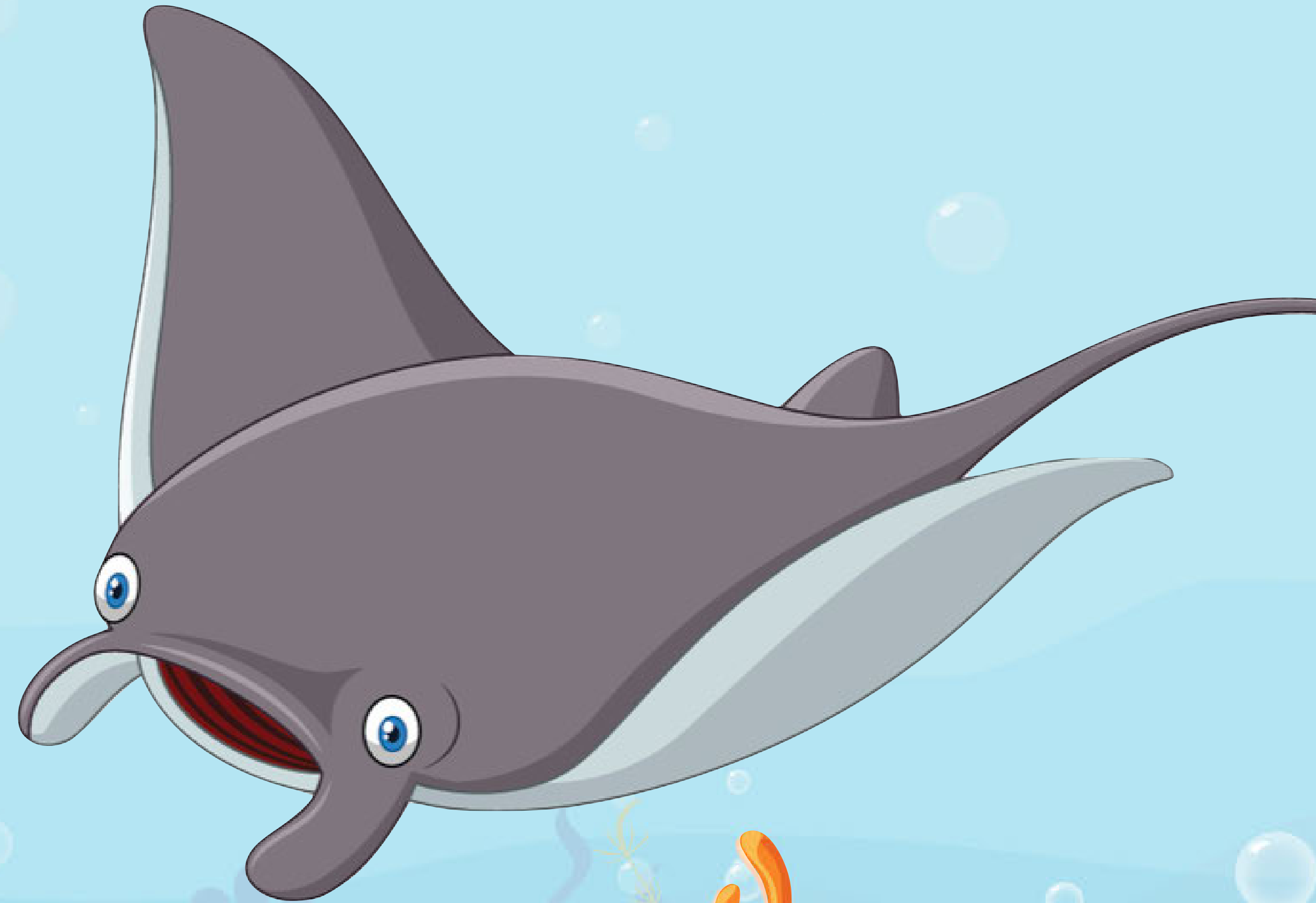




These polar bears live in an Arctic habitat. Their thick fur helps to keep them warm and they have large feet to help them walk on ice without falling through it. They have sharp claws to help them catch fish and can swim to get the food they need.

Ocean animals have lots of special features that allow them to live underwater, unlike the animals we have just looked at.

One of the most important features is **gills**. Do you know what gills are for?



All animals need to **breathe** in order to survive. For lots of animals, including humans, this means breathing air in and out of their lungs.

Air contains the **oxygen** animals need to survive but there is also oxygen in water. Gills allow animals that live underwater to take in the oxygen from the water.

Can you breathe in and out?
What happens to your chest when you breathe?



Ocean animals that don't have gills have other ways of making sure they can breathe. Dolphins and whales have **blow holes** which allow them to breathe out and breathe air in when they reach the surface of the water.

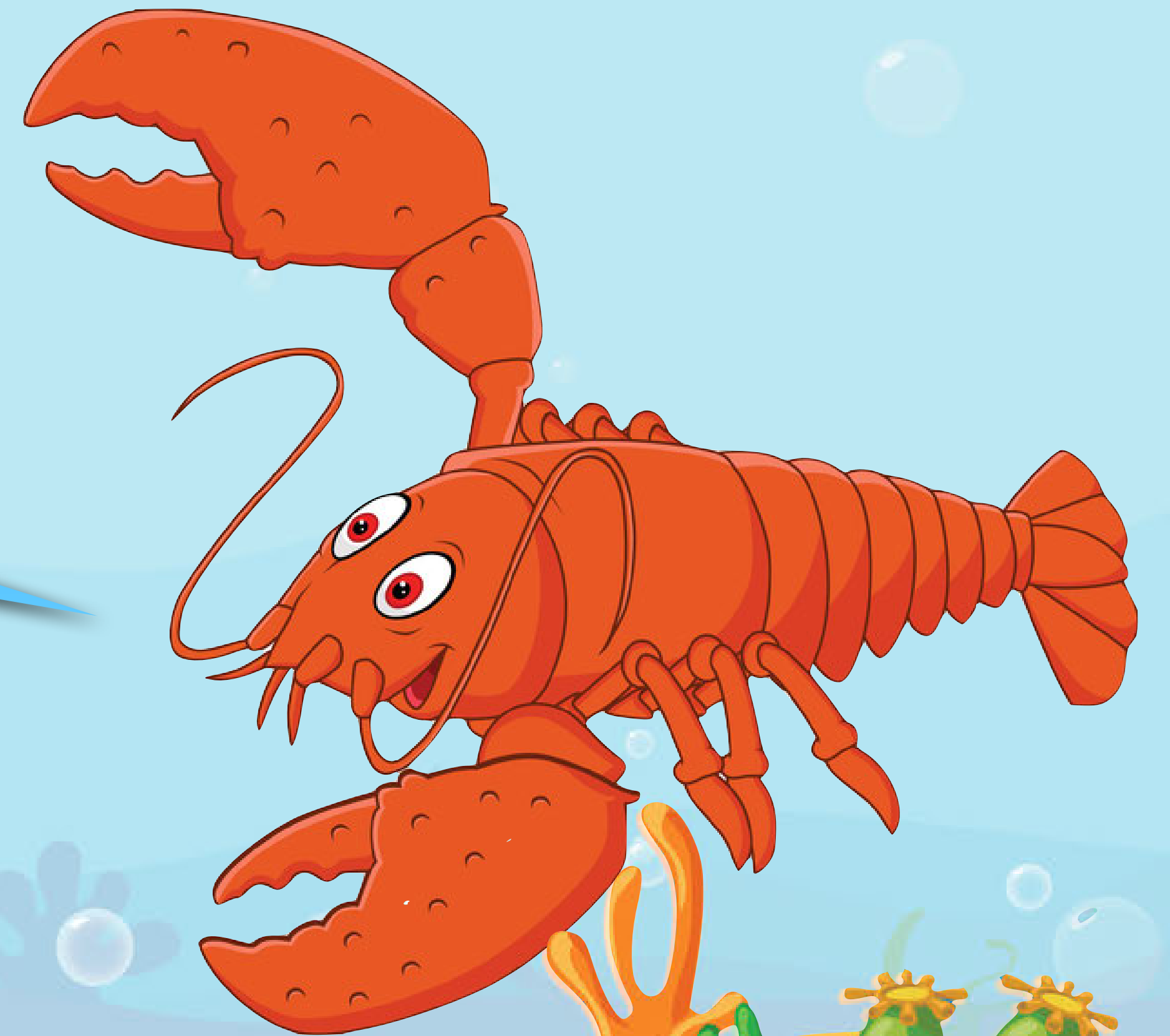


Can you see this dolphin's blow hole?



Ocean animals also have different skin to land animals. Humans and other mammals have skin covered in hair which isn't designed to be in water for long periods of time. Fish, octopuses, eels, jellyfish and other sea animals have skin which is completely waterproof.

Have you ever sat in the bath for too long? Did you notice anything happening to your fingers?



Ocean animals like fish, sharks and dolphins, don't live on the ocean floor but spend their time swimming through the water. They need to be able to move quickly through the water. These animals have strong tails that they move backwards and forwards to propel them forwards. They also have fins they can move so that they can change direction as they are swimming.



Can you see this shark's tail and fins?
How would having legs and arms instead of a tail and fins be difficult for a shark?



Other ocean animals, like crabs and lobsters, need legs so they can walk along the ocean floor. These animals are also able to swim using their legs. They spend most of their time scuttling along the sea bed but can also swim away to find food or to escape from predators.



How are octopuses suited to their ocean habitat?



How does it breathe underwater?

How is it able to move in the water?

What is its skin like?

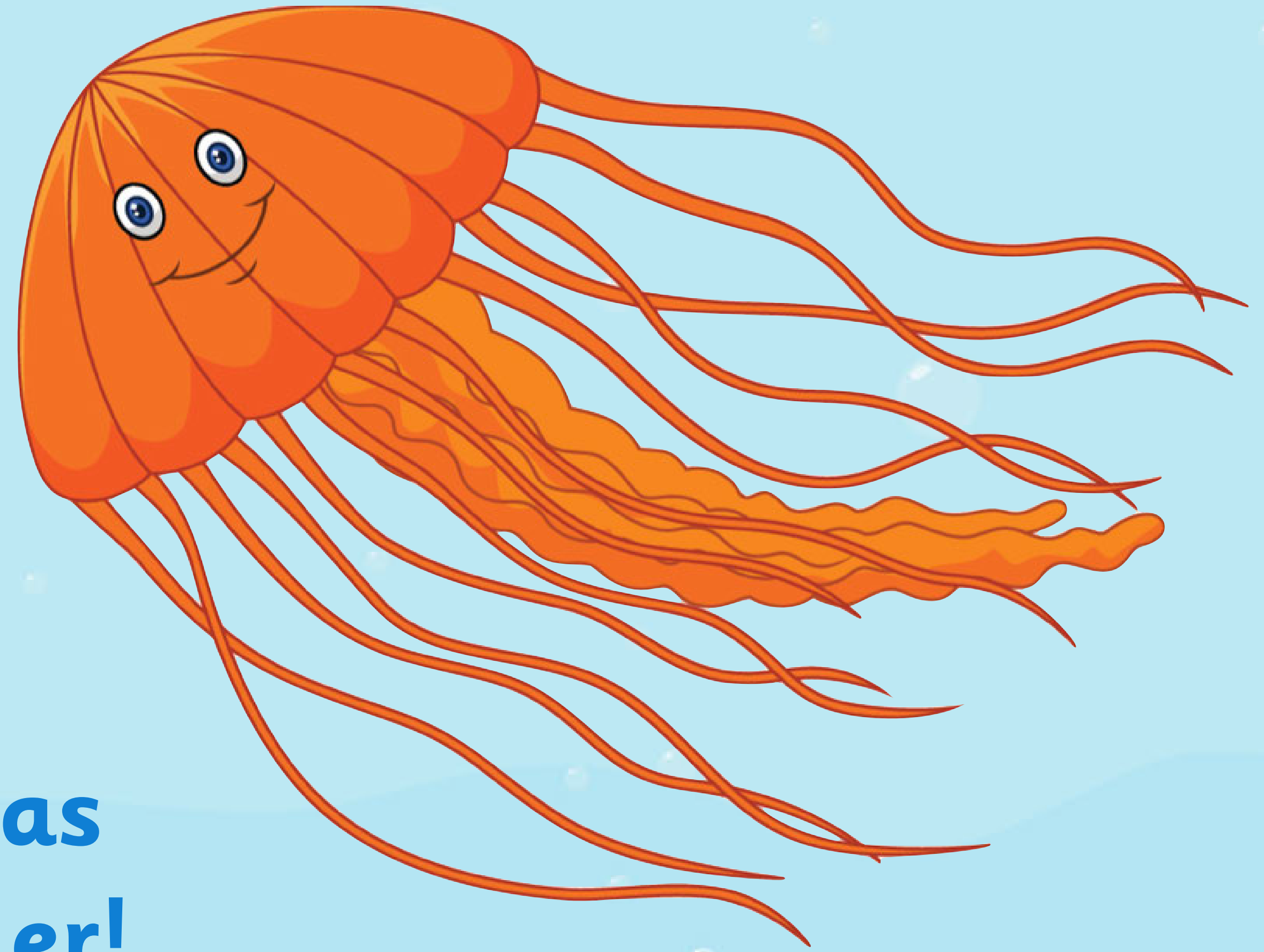


Good work
everyone!



Plenary:

What interesting facts have you found out about ocean animals over the last few lessons?



Think of as many facts as you can with your partner!



Now choose
your favourite fact to
share with the rest of
the class!