

# Animal profile pack

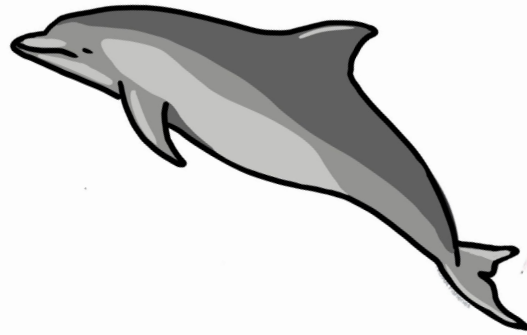


# Help the animals!

## Common Bottlenose Dolphin

### Where do they live?

**Coastal and estuarine waters** (where the rivers meet the sea) all around the world. In the U.S., they are found along the Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific coast, especially in Florida, Texas, California, and the Carolinas.



Max length: 13ft

Max weight: 1400 pounds

### How do they sleep?

With one eye open! While one half of their brain sleeps, the other half stays alert so they can continue breathing and looking out for dangers.

### Fun fact:

Dolphins have names! Each dolphin has a unique whistle to announce their presence which other dolphins also use to attract their attention.

### Michigan note:

Common bottlenose dolphins are *not* found in Michigan. They live in saltwater, not the Great Lakes.

### Likes:

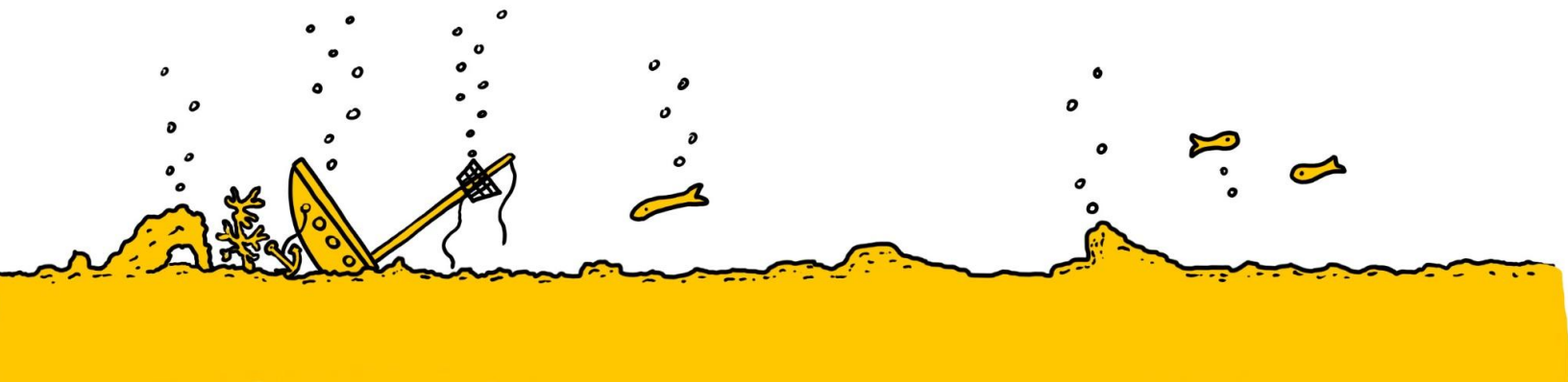
- Eating fish, squid and shrimp
- Jumping out of the water, splashing and playing with each other
- Swimming alongside boats

### Dislikes:

- Litter!
- Getting caught in fishing gear, or entangled in discarded rubbish

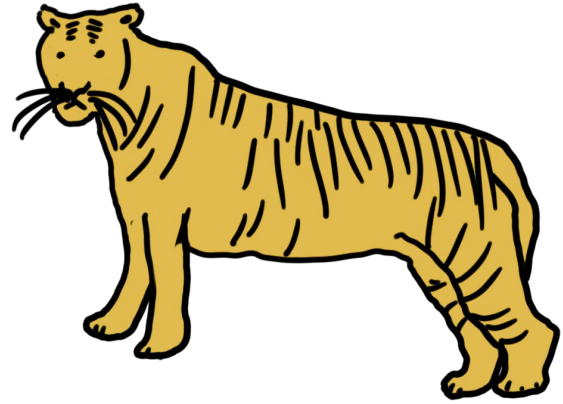
### Challenge:

Dolphins fed by humans will start begging for food and put themselves in danger, we need to teach everyone to admire them from a distance!



# Help the animals!

## Bengal Tiger



Max length: 10 feet long (including the tail)

Max weight: 570 pounds

### Where do they live?

In the **forests and grasslands** of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. They like places with tall plants for hiding.

### How do they sleep?

Tigers snooze 12–16 hours a day, usually curled up in shady spots.

### Fun fact:

Every tiger has a stripe pattern that's completely unique, like a fingerprint.

### Michigan note:

Bengal tigers don't live in the USA but Detroit Zoo is home to Amur tigers, a different species of tiger and the biggest species of the cat family.

### Likes:

- Sneaking through tall grass
- Swimming to cool off
- Hunting deer and wild pigs

### Dislikes:

- Loud noises
- Losing access to forest
- Having their territory disturbed

### Challenge:

Bengal tigers are endangered because forests are being cut down and the tigers are having to compete with humans for space to live.



# Help the animals!

## Moon Jellyfish

### Where do they live?

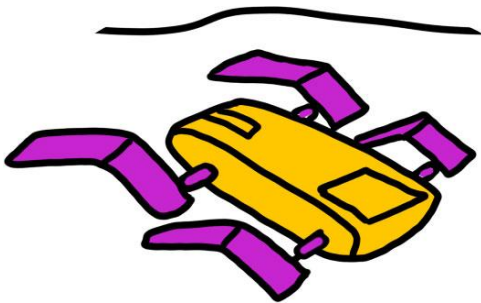
They live all across the world's oceans, included in the US and can survive temperatures as high as 31 celsius and low as - 6 celcius!

### How do they move around?

Wind and water currents often group the jellyfish together, as they can't control their direction - this can create giant swarms of jellyfish especially closer to shore.

### Fun fact:

Jellyfish don't have teeth - they use stomach enzymes to digest their prey.



### Likes:

*5 to 40cm diameter*

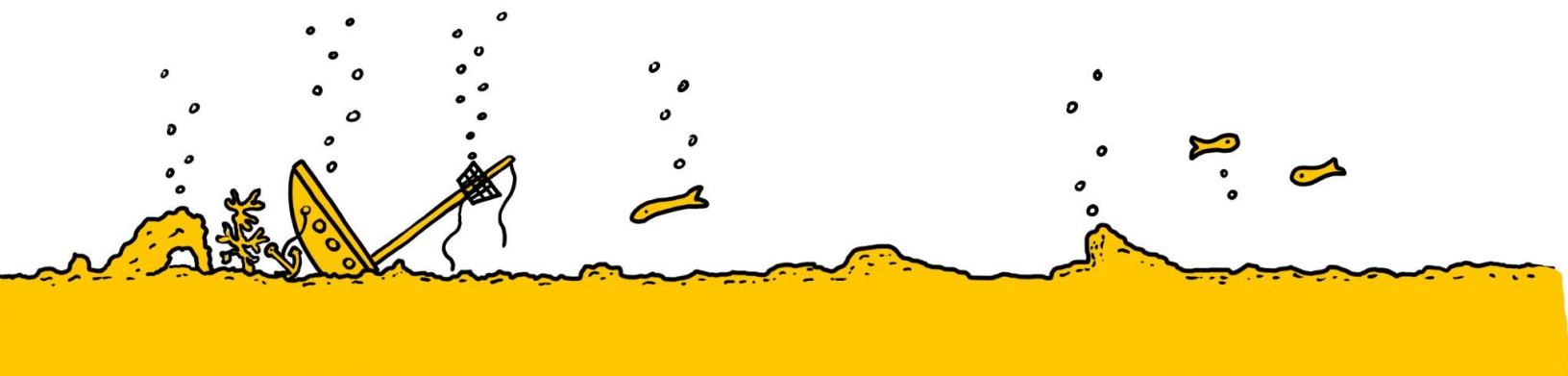
- Eating zooplankton and fish eggs
- Disco lights! They are bioluminescent, which means they glow in the dark. Bio means *life* and lumin is latin for *light*.

### Dislikes:

Not a strong swimmer! They mainly use their short tentacles to stay near the water surface or pulsing their body to push themselves slowly forwards.

### Challenge:

Life in general can be challenging as they live their lives without brains, ears, heart, lungs, blood or eyes. They are





# Help the animals!

## Monarch Butterfly



### Where do they live?

Monarchs live across North America, including **all over Michigan** during the summer months! They migrate thousands of miles to warmer places in Mexico for the winter.

*Max wingspan: Up to 4 inches*  
*Max weight: 0.75 grams (less than a paperclip!)*

### How do they sleep?

They don't sleep like humans. They rest by hanging under leaves or branches with their wings closed.

### Fun fact:

Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed and Michigan has lots of native milkweed species.

### Likes:

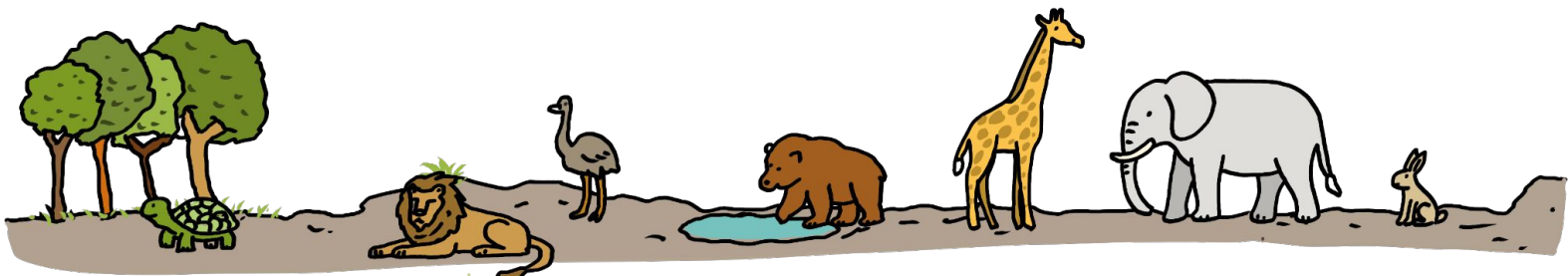
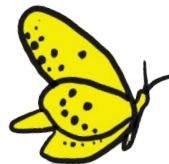
- Sunny summer days
- Resting and laying eggs on milkweed
- Drinking nectar from flowers in Michigan gardens and fields

### Dislikes:

- Cold weather
- Pesticides on plants
- Losing milkweed habitats

### Challenge:

Monarchs struggle because milkweed and wildflower areas are disappearing. Many Michigan schools and parks plant *pollinator gardens* to help them!



# Help the animals!

## Oryx Antelope

### Where do they live?

Oryxes live in the **deserts and dry grasslands** of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. They are built for life in hot, sunny places.

### How do they sleep?

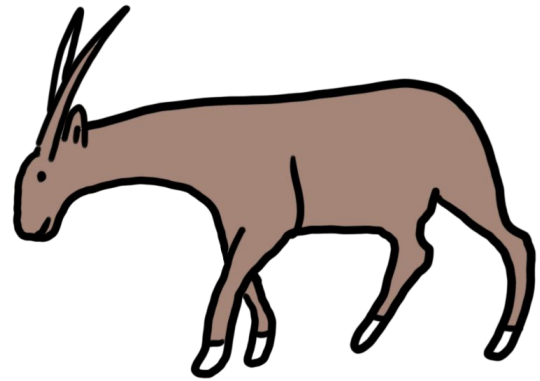
They take short naps while lying down or standing. Oryxes stay alert so they can spot predators even while resting.

### Fun fact:

Oryxes can survive **without water for long periods**, they get moisture from the plants they eat!

### Likes:

- Eating grasses, leaves, and desert plants
- Staying in small herds
- Using their long, straight horns to protect themselves



*Max length: 6–7 feet*

*Max weight: 500 pounds*

### Dislikes:

- Extreme drought
- Predators like lions and hyenas
- Being chased away from water or food sources

### Challenge:

Oryxes face habitat loss and danger from hunting. Some species, like the Arabian oryx, have made a comeback thanks to conservation programs.

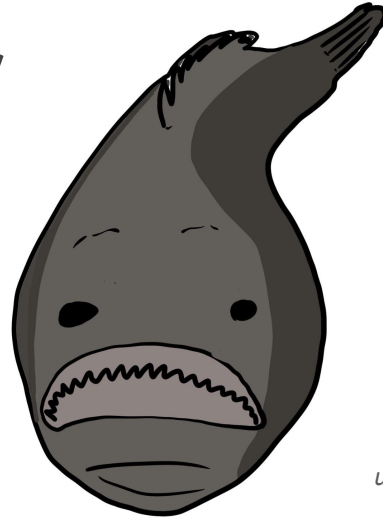
### Michigan note:

Oryxes do not live in the wild in Michigan, but you can sometimes see them in accredited Michigan zoos or wildlife parks.



# Help the animals!

## Stargazer



Max 1 foot  
up to 2.5 pounds

### Where do they live?

In the warm waters of the European Atlantic Coast and Mediterranean Sea. They spend most of their time burrowed into the sand and mud.

### How do they sleep?

They are nocturnal, which means they live by night and sleep hidden under the sand and mud during the day.

### Fun fact:

Stargazers are one of few fish capable of generating an electric charge for hunting or defense!

### Likes:

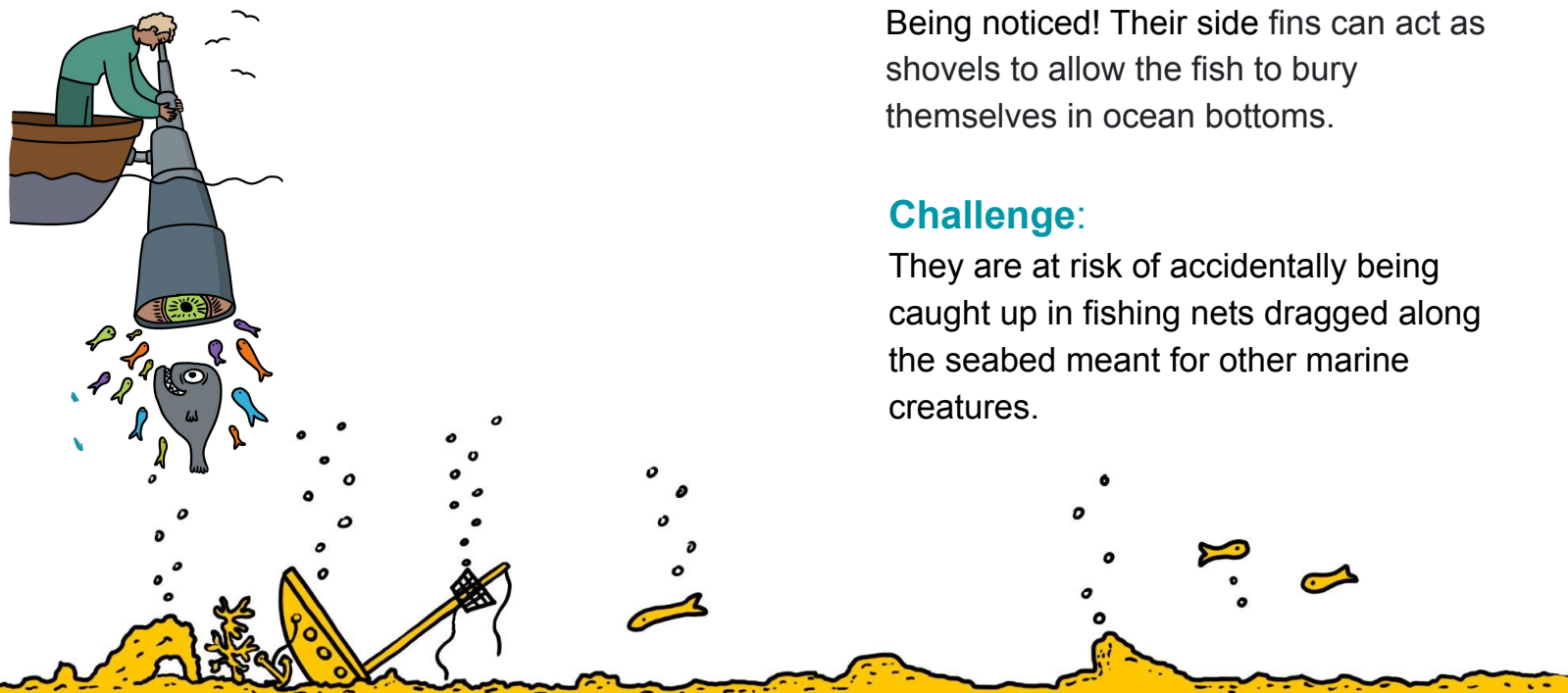
Fishing! They lie in wait for prey to come within a certain distance before attacking. They are able to extend a part of their mouth and wave it around as a lure to attract small fish.

### Dislikes:

Being noticed! Their side fins can act as shovels to allow the fish to bury themselves in ocean bottoms.

### Challenge:

They are at risk of accidentally being caught up in fishing nets dragged along the seabed meant for other marine creatures.



# Help the animals!

## Beluga Whale

### Where do they live?

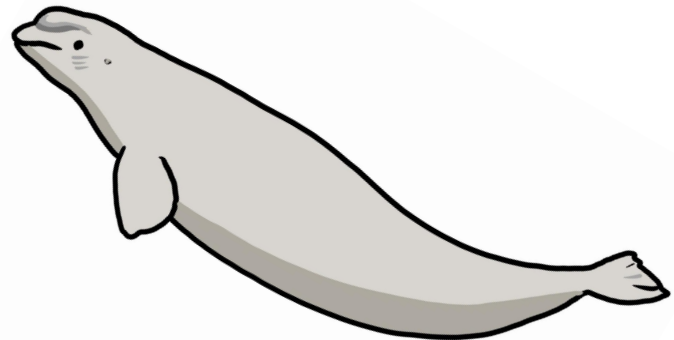
Cold Arctic and sub-Arctic waters.  
Some populations stay in one place while others migrate seasonally to feed and have their babies.

### How do they sleep?

Vertically, with their tail pointing down!  
They spend 30% of the day sleeping, while other whale species only sleep 7% of the day on average.

### Fun fact:

Belugas can mimic human speech and change their facial expressions to make funny faces.



Max 18 feet  
up to 3,530 pounds

### Likes:

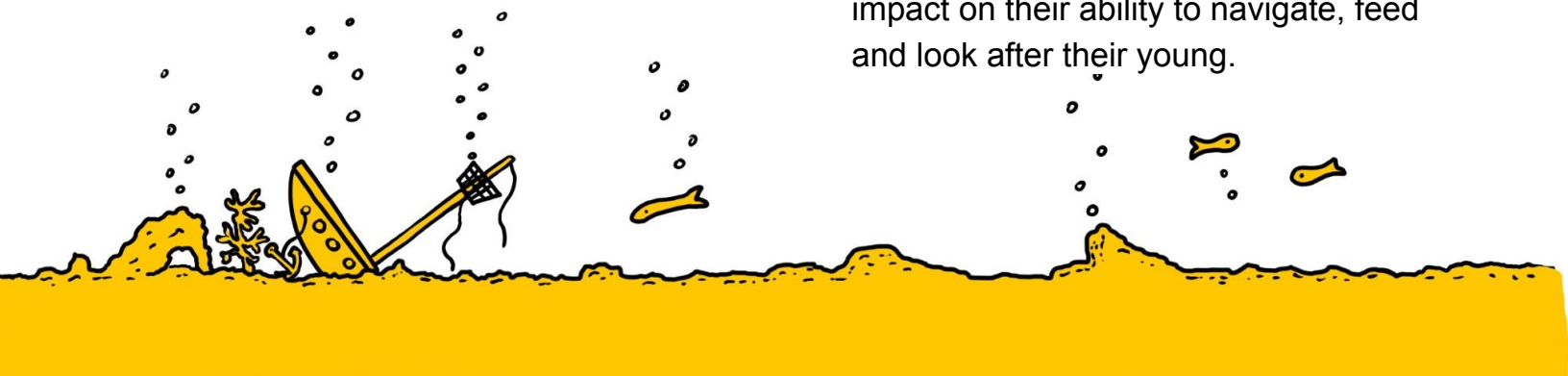
- Fish including cod and salmon, as well as squid, shrimps and crabs
- Chatting and singing, they are so enthusiastic their vocalisations can be heard from the boats above!

### Dislikes:

Belugas like to stay super clean and bright white! When their skin gets a little dirty or yellow from tiny algae, they rub against rocks and gravel to scrub it off and make themselves shiny again.

### Challenge:

Vessel traffic and underwater noise due to oil and gas exploration have a negative impact on their ability to navigate, feed and look after their young.





# Help the animals!

## Mediterranean House Gecko

### Where do they live?

Mediterranean house geckos live in **warm places around the world**, including parts of the **southern United States** like Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Arizona, and California. They love sticking to walls near lights where insects gather.

### How do they sleep?

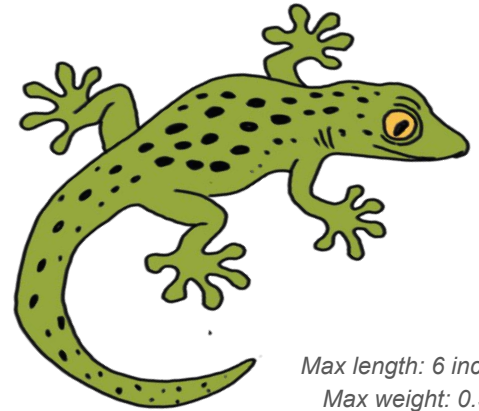
They sleep during the day, hiding in cracks, behind shutters, or under roof tiles. At night, they wake up to hunt!

### Fun fact:

If a predator grabs their tail, they can let it drop off! The wiggly tail distracts the predator while the animal swims away to safety.

### Michigan note:

Michigan is too cold for wild geckos, but you can see them in zoos or keep certain species as pets with proper care.



Max length: 6 inches  
Max weight: 0.5 oz

### Likes:

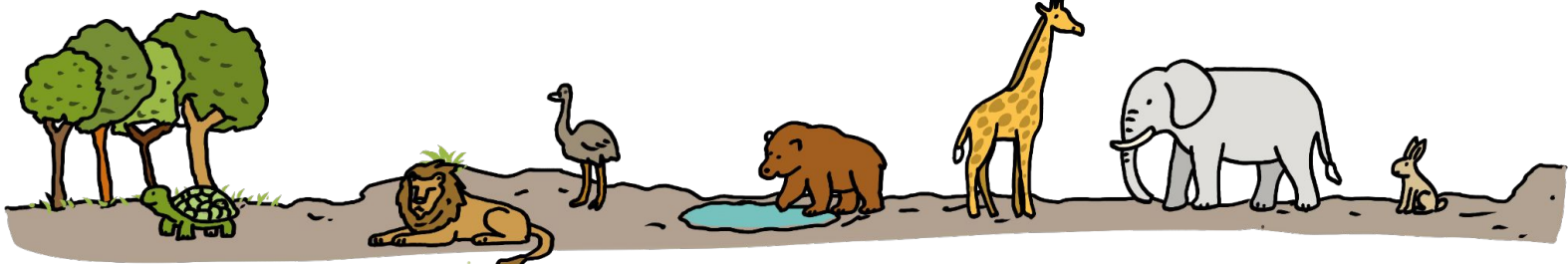
- Eating insects like moths, beetles, and mosquitoes
- Warm walls and sunny spots
- Climbing smooth surfaces using their sticky toe pads

### Dislikes:

- Cold temperatures
- Bright daytime light
- Predators such as snakes, cats, and larger lizards

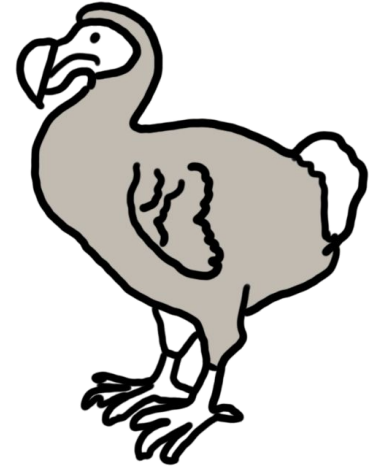
### Challenge:

Mediterranean house geckos are doing well in many places, but because they like buildings, they sometimes lose hiding spots when old structures are replaced.



# Help the animals!

## Dodo (extinct!)



### Where do they live?

Dodos once lived only on Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean.

### How do they sleep?

Scientists think they slept on the ground like many large birds.

### Fun fact:

Even though they couldn't fly, dodos were strong runners.

**Michigan note:** Dodos never lived in North America, but you can learn about them in museums and books.

*Max length: 3 feet tall*

*Max weight: 30–50 pounds*

### Likes:

- Eating fruits, nuts, and seeds
- Quiet island forests
- Staying safe from predators (they didn't have many!)

### Dislikes:

- Pigs, rats, and cats brought by sailors
- Being hunted
- Losing their forest homes

### Challenge:

The dodo went extinct in the 1600s because people hunted them, and other animals that people brought with them ate the dodos' eggs.



# Help the animals!

## Ghost Goby

### Where do they live?

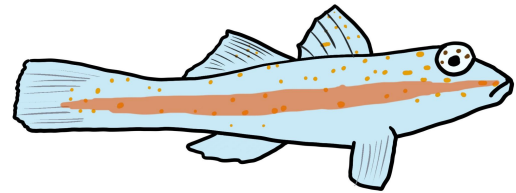
In the coral reefs of the Indo-West Pacific Ocean, between India and Australia.

### How do they sleep?

They sleep at night, hiding in the coral, safe from predators.

### Fun fact:

They are called Ghost Gobies because they are translucent, which means that light can go through them which makes them hard to see.



*Max length: 1.5 inches*

### Likes:

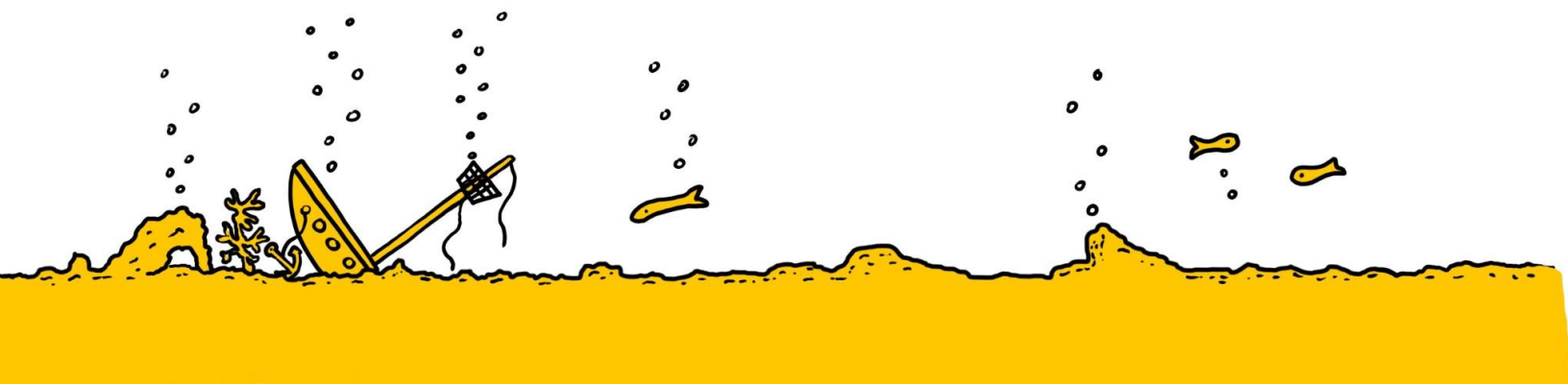
Flowing water that brings food to them, so they don't have to spend energy looking for it.

### Dislikes:

Change! Gobies dislike any changes to the water temperature, salinity (amount of salt), and pollution level as it makes them unwell.

### Challenge:

Coral reefs are under threat from warming oceans, which means Gobies are faced with the challenge of losing their homes if reefs are not protected.



# Help the animals!

## Mediterranean Monk Seal

### Where do they live?

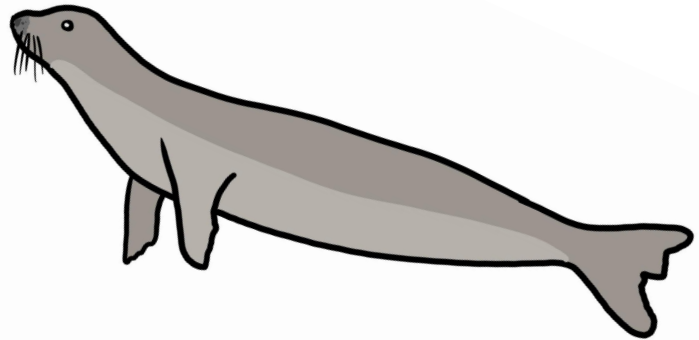
Along the coast in the Mediterranean Sea and Northwest Africa. They are mostly found in Greece.

### How do they sleep?

They sleep in marine caves along the coast, though some have been found snoozing in the water. In ancient times, they used to sleep on beaches but relocated due to human activities.

### Fun fact:

In ancient Greece, monk seals were placed under the protection of the Gods Poseidon and Apollo because they showed a great love for sea and sun.



Max length: 10 feet  
Max weight: 660 pounds

### Likes:

- Eating bony fishes, octopus and crustaceans
- Diving! Some have been recorded diving to more than 230 feet!
- Spending time underwater with other seals

### Dislikes:

- Being cold! They have thick layers of fat and fur to protect them.
- Being caught in fishing gear

### Challenge:

There are only 600 of these seals left in the world and they need a lot of help! Protecting the coast where they live and their food sources is essential.

