

Article 7: Life under the sea

The ocean covers roughly 71% of our planet's surface and is by far, the most dominant **feature** of our world. About 60% of the ocean is the cold and dark region known as the *deep ocean*. It reaches down 11,000 meters. This remote zone, once thought to be **devoid** of life due to lack of sunlight, is one of the greatest habitats on Earth, **harbouring** a huge diversity of life.

There is an **abundance** of weird and wonderful life forms that have adapted to the darkness. The anglerfish, with its **cavernous** mouth, spiky teeth, and a lamp-like structure **jutting** from its head, is just one of these otherworldly creatures.

The deep sea is also the land of giants. **Gargantuan** squids can reach 18 meters long, and isopods **scuttle** around the sea floor like enormous woodlice. There are also **long-limbed** Japanese spider crabs, and oarfish, whose bodies stretch to 15 meters.

The oceans' predators come in all shapes and sizes. Do not be fooled by a jellyfish's beautiful and **gelatinous** body - they pack a painful punch. With bodies made up of 95% water, these delicate creatures must rely on thousands of venom containing stinging cells called *cnidocytes* for protection and prey capture.

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