



Animals That Look Like Plants

Some animals are so strange that they look like plants! This helps them stay (1)..... from predators or hide while hunting. Let's learn about some animals that are often mistaken for plants.

Corals live in the ocean and look like colorful plants, but they are animals. Each coral is made up of (2)..... creatures called polyps. These polyps build hard skeletons, which create coral reefs. Corals don't move like most animals, but they catch tiny food in the (3)..... using their tentacles. Their bright colors often come from algae living inside them

Sea lilies live in the ocean and look like underwater flowers, but they are animals related to starfish. They have long, feathery arms that wave in the water to catch food. These animals attach themselves to rocks or the sea floor and stay in one (4)....., just like a plant. Sea lilies haven't changed much in millions of years and look like creatures from another time.

The **feather star** is another sea animal that looks like a plant. It has long, feathery arms that look like coral or seaweed. Feather stars can move (5)..... across the sea floor, but they usually stay still and catch food floating by.

Sea slugs, especially ones called *nudibranchs*, often look like beautiful (6)..... or seaweed. Their bright colors and wavy shapes make them blend into coral reefs or underwater plants. Some sea slugs can even use poison from the food they eat to protect themselves. A type of sea slug called "**leaf sheep**," which has a body that looks like (7)..... leaves, can even use sunlight to (8)..... energy, like a plant!

Another fascinating creature is the **frogfish**. It uses its plant-like appearance to hide among corals and sponges. The frogfish doesn't (9)..... much. Instead, it uses its fins to walk along the ocean floor and waits for prey to come close before snapping it up with its big mouth.

The **ghost pipefish** is another master of disguise. It floats near seagrass or coral, looking just like a piece of seaweed. This clever fish stays very still to avoid being seen by predators.

These animals show how creative nature can be. By looking like plants, they survive in their habitats and avoid (10)..... Next time you see what looks like a plant, take a closer look – it might be an animal in disguise!

Word Bank

slowly, green, water, catch, flowers, swim, tiny, danger, safe, make, place