

THE SANDY BOTTOM NEWS FACT OR FICTION

ALL HERMIT CRABS LIVE IN THE OCEAN.

FICTION. MARINE HERMIT CRABS ARE BORN IN THE OCEAN AND LIVE IN SALTWATER THEIR ENTIRE LIFE. THEIR GILLS ARE ADAPTED TO BREATHING UNDERWATER. THEY CANNOT LIVE IN FRESHWATER.

LAND HERMIT CRABS ARE BORN IN WATER, BUT AS THEY GROW, THEIR GILLS ADAPT TO BREATHING AIR. THEY LIVE THEIR ADULT LIFE ON LAND. HOWEVER, THEY STILL NEED WATER TO DRINK, BATHE IN, AND TO STORE IN THE BACK OF THEIR SHELL TO KEEP THEIR GILLS MOIST.

CLOWN FISH ARE IMMUNE TO SEA ANEMONE'S STINGING TENTACLES.

FACT. CLOWN FISH HAVE A MUCUS COVERING THAT PROTECTS THEM FROM SEA ANEMONE'S STINGING TENTACLES. THE SEA ANEMONE PROVIDES SAFETY FROM CLOWN FISH'S PREDATORS. IN RETURN, CLOWN FISH KEEPS THE SEA ANEMONE CLEAN BY EATING THE ALGAE THAT FORMS ON ITS TENTACLES. CLOWN FISH ALSO CHASE AWAY PREDATORS THAT EAT SEA ANEMONES.

OYSTERS CAN MAKE PEARLS.

FACT. IF A FOREIGN OBJECT LIKE A PIECE OF SHELL, A PARASITE, OR EVEN A GRAIN OF SAND, GETS LODGED BETWEEN THE OYSTER'S SHELL AND MANTLE, IT'S SIMILAR TO THE OYSTER GETTING A SPLINTER. THE OYSTER WILL PROTECT ITSELF BY COATING THE OBJECT WITH A SUBSTANCE CALLED NACRE (MOTHER OF PEARL). THIS IS THE SAME SUBSTANCE THAT MAKES UP THE OYSTER'S SHELL. THE COATED OBJECT IS A PEARL.

SEA STAR HAS SKIN COVERED WITH LUMPS AND BUMPS.

FACT. THESE BUMPS ARE ROWS OF SPINES THAT PROTRUDE FROM THE SKIN. THESE SPINES PROVIDE PROTECTION FROM PREDATORS BY MAKING THE SKIN HARD TO PENETRATE. THEY ALSO HELP KEEP THE SEA STAR CLEAN BY REMOVING DEBRIS FROM ITS BODY.

SAND DOLLARS USE THEIR TUBE FEET TO WALK ALONG THE OCEAN FLOOR.

FICTION. LIVING SAND DOLLARS USE THEIR TUBE FEET TO BREATHE. THE TUBE FEET ARE LOCATED ON THE TOP OF THE SAND DOLLAR. THESE FEET STICK OUT OF THE MANY TINY HOLES THAT FORM THE FLOWER PETAL PATTERN. SAND DOLLARS ALSO HAVE SMALL SPINES THAT COVER THEIR BODIES. THESE SPIRES ARE USED TO MOVE AROUND AND TO DIG INTO THE SAND.

SEAHORSES CAN HOLD ONTO SEAWEED WITH THEIR TAILS.

FACT. SEAHORSE TAILS ARE PERFECT FOR WRAPPING AROUND BLADES OF SEAGRASS. THIS HELPS ANCHOR THE SEAHORSE IN PLACE.

SANDCASTLE WORMS INCLUDE FEATHER DUSTER WORMS AND TUBE WORMS.

FACT. A MARINE FEATHER DUSTER WORM HAS A FUN- SHAPED CROWN. IT BUILDS A PARCHMENT-LIKE TUBE HOME OUT OF A GLUE-LIKE SUBSTANCE, SAND AND BITS OF SHELL. TUBE WORMS BUILD HARD, TUBE-SHAPED HOMES OUT OF CHITIN.

SEA TURTLES WILL EAT OTHER SEA CREATURES.

FACT. WHILE SOME SEA TURTLES ARE STRICT HERBIVORES (EATING ALGAE AND SEA GRASSES), THERE ARE SOME THAT DO EAT ANIMALS (CARNIVORES) OR BOTH PLANT AND ANIMAL (OMNIVORES). IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE SPECIES OF TURTLE.

NAUTILUS CAN SQUIRT INK.

FICTION. THE NAUTILUS DOES NOT HAVE INK SACS SO THEY CANNOT SQUIRT INK LIKE THE OCTOPUS AND SQUID. NAUTILUS DOES HAVE MANY CHAMBERS IN ITS SHELL AND A SHARP PARROT-LIKE BEAK.