THE INCREDIBLE POP-UP OCTOPUS

COMING SOON!

MYSTERIES OF

THE DEEP

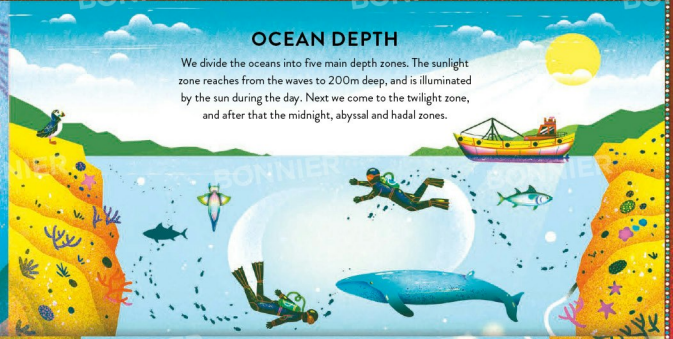
Oceans are the largest habitat on Earth. Around 94% of the species alive today are found there. But these are just the species we know about so far. Lots more marine animals are still waiting to be discovered, especially in the deep sea, the part of the planet we know least about. To explore this mysterious world, we use remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). They are controlled by scientists on board research ships and give us amazing glimpses of life far below the surface.

BLUE PLANET

Seen from space, Earth sparkles like a blue jewel. Why does it appear blue? Because water covers almost three-quarters of its surface! The oceans and seas in each region have different names, but are all connected, so form a single global ocean.

OCEAN DEPTH

We divide the oceans into five main depth zones. The sunlight zone reaches from the waves to 200m deep, and is illuminated by the sun during the day. Next we come to the twilight zone, and after that the midnight, abyssal and hadal zones.



INTO THE GLOOM

By the time we reach the twilight zone, the sun's rays are getting very faint. As we go deeper, the light continues to fade fast. By around 1,000m, there is no longer any sunlight at all. Beyond this point, the ocean is permanently dark.

MYSTERIES OF THE DEEP

The ocean covers 70% of Earth's surface and is home to the majority of all life. Yet most of it remains unexplored. In fact, the deep sea is the least studied place on the planet! Deep dives using a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) often lead to the discovery of weird and wonderful animals, many new to science. Life at great depths is full of challenges, so the species found there can look dramatically different to those at the surface.

WEIRD & WONDERFUL

The powerful lights of an ROV can show us all sorts of incredible creatures. These deep-sea animals are often very different from those that live nearer the surface. Many, such as the glass octopus, produce their own light and actually glow. Some, such as the fangtooth, have huge jaws. Others have strange body parts, like the goblin shark's enormous pointed nose.

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UNDER PRESSURE

In the deep sea, the pressure increases massively. This is due to the immense weight of water pressing down above. For example, at 4,000 deep, the pressure is 400 times greater than at the surface.