

Welcome
to the
Museum

ADMIT ALL

Animalium

Curated by KATIE SCOTT and JENNY BROOM



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Cephalopods

The cephalopod family includes squids and octopuses, and is an ancient form of marine life that dominated the seas several million years before fish had evolved. There are now around 800 species of cephalopod, which can be found living in every ocean on Earth.

The word cephalopod means 'head-feet' in Greek, which reflects their anatomy. Their size is recorded by the length of their body cavity, called a mantle, which sits behind the head. Their large brains and advanced senses make them sociable creatures able to communicate with one another — they sometimes even shoal with fish for company.

Cephalopods can change the colour and pattern of their bodies to camouflage

themselves or ward off predators. They have sucker-like tentacles, and move by taking in water and shooting it out to move forward by jet propulsion.

Cephalopods produce ink and, when threatened, they release an inky cloud to confuse predators. Some can produce a ghost-like cloud a similar size, shape and colour to their own body, which acts as a decoy and gives the cephalopod a chance to escape.

Key to plate

1: Long-armed squid

Chroteuthis vociferi
Mantle length: 12.5 centimetres

This slow-moving, alien-like squid lives at depths of up to 2.4 kilometres.

2: Whip-lash squid

Mastigoteuthis microlancea
Mantle length: 10 centimetres

The long, whip-like tentacles of this squid are covered in tiny, sticky suckers.

3: Angel octopus

Vulpiolina togata
Mantle length: 16 centimetres

This deep-sea octopus lives at depths between 200–700 metres.



Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins

Turtles are members of an order of reptiles called Testudines, which also includes tortoises and aquatic terrapins. This name refers to the hard shell that all its species possess, as a *testudo* in ancient Rome was a hard screen or shield that soldiers used to protect themselves. Little of the modern turtle's anatomy has changed from its prehistoric ancestors', who date back more than 220 million years, making turtles and tortoises more ancient than all snakes, lizards and crocodiles.

Turtles' shells are attached to their bodies, and so their protective armour can never be taken off or left behind. Land-dwelling tortoises have higher, domed shells, whilst aquatic species have flatter shells. To hide inside their shells, some species fold their head alongside their shoulder, whilst others retract their neck and head backwards. Box turtles have a hinged bony plate that allows their shells to close completely.

Males will often perform elaborate courtship rituals to impress females, who lay shelled eggs after mating. The temperature that the eggs are kept at affects the sex of the hatchlings (a trait shared with crocodiles and some lizards).

Key to plate

1: Green sea turtle

Chelonia mydas

Length: 150 centimetres

This large sea turtle is a herbivore, feeding mostly on seagrasses.

Populations of green sea turtles can be found in tropical waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

2: Painted turtle

Chrysemys picta bellii

Length: 25 centimetres

Also known as the firebelly turtle, this species spends long hours basking in the sun, particularly early in the day. It is common sight to find several painted turtles piled on top of one another on a log.

3: Blanding's turtle

Emydoidea blandingii

Length: 20 centimetres

This turtle has a plastral hinge that forms a protective hatch at the front of its shell. It is omnivorous, feeding on a range of foods such as berries, fish and frogs.

4: Diamondback terrapin

Malaclemys terrapin

Length: 15 centimetres

The mild-mannered diamondback terrapin lives in brackish lagoons, tidal marshlands and sandy beaches in east-coast America. The species nearly became extinct due to over-hunting and destruction of its habitat.

5: Leopard tortoise

Geochelone pardalis

Length: 50 centimetres

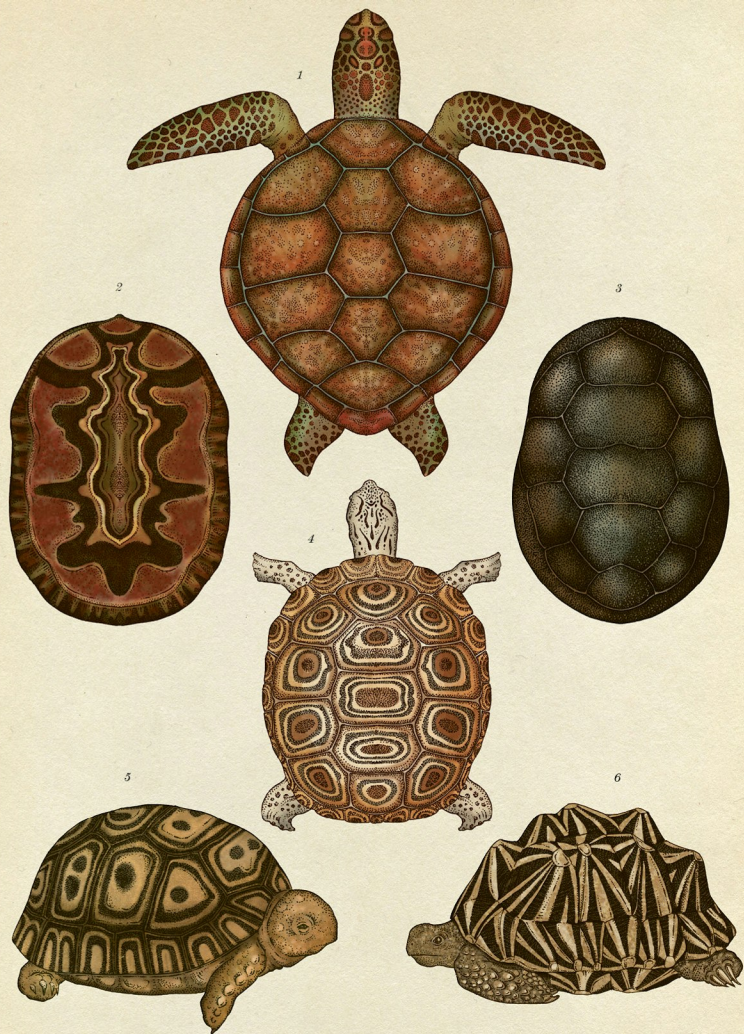
The leopard tortoise is a large tortoise found in savannah habitats in Africa, where it can live for up to 100 years. Its grasping toenails make it an agile walker, strong swimmer and surprisingly good climber.

6: Indian star tortoise

Geochelone elegans

Length: 28 centimetres

The Indian star tortoise has a high tolerance of water, and so can be found in places that experience monsoon seasons. Its dome shape allows it to easily self-right.



Habitat: Arctic Tundra

Around the North Pole is a cold, barren area called the tundra. This habitat is one of the most difficult places to survive on Earth due to its freezing temperatures, high winds, lack of shelter and scarcity of food and water. The ground is permanently frozen (a condition known as permafrost), which makes it difficult for trees and plants to grow. This means there is little vegetation for animals to feed on.

Cold-blooded reptiles and amphibians are not at all suited to this environment, but mammals can survive because they are warm-blooded and have evolved to grow warm furry coats that keep them from freezing. The thick coat of some Arctic mammals changes colour through the seasons for camouflage, turning white for the snowy winter and a darker colour through the summer.

Staying warm in such a cold habitat uses a lot of energy, and consequently many of these mammals, such as the Arctic wolf and polar bear, are carnivorous predators, feeding on protein-rich meat.

Polar bears are perfectly adapted to living in the icy tundra around the North Pole. They are classed as aquatic mammals and are master-swimmers, able to travel up to 320 kilometres in the water. Their white coat is made up of clear, hollow hairs which keep them warm in the Arctic water and dry out quickly when they are back on land.

Key to plate

1: Polar bear

Ursus maritimus
Length: 215 centimetres

The solitary polar bear travels far and wide in search of food, as the Arctic ice melts in the spring and freezes in winter. It has been known to cover territories of 1,000 kilometres from north to south. To protect its paws on the ice, the soles of its feet are furred.

2: Muskox

Ovibos moschatus
Length: 210 centimetres

The sociable muskox lives in small groups of five or six in the summer when food is plentiful and the weather is mild. In winter, these groups form large herds of up to 60 creatures for warmth and protection.

3: Arctic wolf

Canis lupus arctos
Length: 109 centimetres

The Arctic wolf lives in a family pack with a defined social hierarchy, the alpha pair—who are often the parents of those lower down in the pack's

hierarchy—are at the top. The pack works together to hunt and care for any young pups.

4: Arctic hare

Lepus arcticus
Length: 56 centimetres

The Arctic hare eats woody plants, buds and grasses, and uses its keen sense of smell to find food that is buried beneath the snow. It is fast and agile, and can escape its predators by running at speeds of up to 64 kilometres per hour.

