

True Undersea Mysteries

Decorator Crabs



Decorator crabs are organisms who live in the ocean and collect things to decorate or camouflage themselves. They can be up to 5 inches wide and are found all over the world. There is not one specific species of decorator crab, but instead many different types that have the same behavior.

Like in this story, decorator crabs find items to attach to their bodies: seaweed, shells, gravel, algae, and sponges (the sea kind). Curved, bristlelike hairs called setae catch onto the items to make them stick. This helps the crabs blend in with their environment and keep them safe.





Narwhals



Narwhals like Wally are a type of whale with a long spiral “tusk.”

This ivory hornlike feature is actually a protruding tooth, which comes from the left side of the jaw, and grows right through the lip! The tusks are most common in males, though females sometimes grow them as well. Occasionally, narwhals can grow two tusks!

These mysterious creatures can range from 13 to 20 feet long (not including the tusk), which is similar in size to cars and trucks you see on the highway. A single narwhal can weigh thousands of pounds and live to be over 50 years old! They live in Arctic waters and eat ocean organisms like fish and squid.

