

## Marine Biology Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Marine Biology trivia explores the science of ocean life, from microscopic plankton to giant whales and the ecosystems that connect them. As marine biology grew into a modern field through centuries of seafaring observation, diving technology, and conservation research, it transformed how we understand Earth's largest habitat. This page offers a concise, family-friendly way to test what you know while picking up surprising facts from the surface to the deep sea.

### HARD MARINE BIOLOGY TRIVIA

1. Which 19th-century voyage, launched in 1872, is widely treated as a founding expedition of modern oceanography?

Answer: The HMS Challenger expedition.

2. In what year did William Beebe and Otis Barton set their record bathysphere depth off Bermuda?

Answer: 1934.

3. What was the name of the bathyscaphe that carried Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh to Challenger Deep in 1960?

Answer: Trieste.

4. Hydrothermal vents were first discovered near the Galápagos Rift in what year?

Answer: 1977.

5. Which explorer is specifically linked to the 1977 discovery of hydrothermal vent communities during deep-sea work?

Answer: Robert Ballard.

6. What organization, created in 1946, became the central international body for regulating whaling?

Answer: The International Whaling Commission.

7. The commercial whaling moratorium adopted by the International Whaling Commission took effect in which year?

Answer: 1986.

8. Before publishing "On the Origin of Species," which scientist spent years in close study of barnacles?

Answer: Charles Darwin.

9. Who was John Steinbeck's co-author on the 1941 book "Sea of Cortez"?

Answer: Ed Ricketts.

10. Which researcher used experiments on *Pisaster* sea stars to help establish the idea of a keystone species?

Answer: Robert Paine.

11. In ocean-climate terms, "El Niño" refers to periodic warming of which broad region?

Answer: The central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

12. What is the term for the process that lifts cold, nutrient-rich deep water toward the ocean surface?

Answer: Upwelling.

13. Which specific upwelling system is noted for supporting high marine productivity around its islands?

Answer: The Galápagos upwelling.

14. Marine biologists use what term for a layer of ocean water marked by especially low dissolved oxygen?

Answer: The oxygen minimum zone.

### FUNNY MARINE BIOLOGY TRIVIA

1. Which small Pacific fish looks like it's about to deliver a dramatic monologue by flaring an oversized mouth?

Answer: The sarcastic fringehead.

2. If the ocean held a lipstick commercial, which Galápagos-area fish would book the lead role thanks to its bright red lips?

Answer: The red-lipped batfish.

3. Which marine creature became internet-famous after being called one of the world's ugliest animals?

Answer: The blobfish.

4. What crustacean sounds like a snow monster and was first described in 2005 because of its hairy claws?

Answer: The yeti crab.

5. Which Australian fish skips the whole 'just keep swimming' speech and uses limb-like fins to walk along the seafloor?

Answer: The handfish.

6. Which marine animal is basically floating salad cosplay, resembling drifting seaweed for camouflage?

Answer: The weedy sea dragon.

7. Which carpet shark looks like it forgot to trim the frilly lobes around its mouth?

Answer: The tasseled wobbegong.

8. Which deep-sea fish sounds like a traffic signal malfunction and has a loosely hinged lower jaw?

Answer: The stoplight loosejaw.

9. Which fish comes with what seems like built-in aquarium glass, thanks to a transparent shield over its tubular eyes?

Answer: The barreleye fish.

10. Which octopus got a nickname from ear-like fins on the sides of its mantle, giving it a cartoonish look?

Answer: The dumbo octopus.

11. Which deep-sea anglerfish was named because its body is round enough to remind people of a football?

Answer: The footballfish.

12. True or false: The upside-down jellyfish often rests bell-down on the seafloor.?

Answer: True

13. Which deep-sea sea cucumber has stubby leg-like appendages and somehow ended up with the unforgettable name 'sea pig'?

Answer: The sea pig.

#### FUN MARINE BIOLOGY TRIVIA

1. Which ocean animal flips the usual parenting script by having the male carry developing young in a brood pouch?

Answer: Sea horses

2. True or false: An octopus has three hearts.?

Answer: True

3. Who heads to bed wrapped in a homemade mucus sleeping bag?

Answer: Parrotfish

4. Which punchy sea creature can strike with club-like appendages at extremely high speed?

Answer: Mantis shrimp

5. What fish can make a dramatic exit by gliding above the ocean surface with enlarged pectoral fins?

Answer: Flying fish

6. Despite the name, which stinging drifter is actually a colony rather than a single animal?

Answer: Portuguese man o' war

7. At reef 'spa stations,' which small fish removes parasites from larger fish clients?

Answer: Cleaner wrasse

8. Which crafty crab decorates itself with bits of algae or even animals for camouflage?

Answer: Decorator crab

9. Which Arctic whale is famous for carrying a long spiral tusk?

Answer: Narwhal

10. Leafy seadragons are native to the coastal waters of which region?

Answer: Southern Australia

11. Which shark has a bite-sized calling card, taking round plugs of flesh from larger animals?

Answer: Cookiecutter shark

12. What is the largest octopus species by weight?

Answer: Giant Pacific octopus

13. Which little cephalopod uses glowing bacteria to help hide its silhouette from predators below?

Answer: Bobtail squid

#### MARINE BIOLOGY FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Off the coast of Queensland, Australia, what famous reef stretches through the Coral Sea?

Answer: The Great Barrier Reef

2. What is the name for the event when corals lose the helpful algae living in their tissues?

Answer: Coral bleaching

3. Which coastal habitat helps protect tropical shorelines from waves and erosion?

Answer: Mangrove forests

4. Which clever marine mammal is known for using rocks as tools to crack open shellfish?

Answer: Sea otters

5. Dolphins take in air through what body opening instead of using gills?

Answer: Blowholes

6. Even though they spend most of their lives in the ocean, which animals return to land to lay eggs?

Answer: Sea turtles

7. As adults, what small sea creatures glue themselves firmly to hard surfaces?

Answer: Barnacles

8. What word describes an animal that keeps its internal salt level close to the surrounding seawater?

Answer: Osmoconformer

9. Which species holds the title of the largest living fish?

Answer: Whale shark

10. What is the term for light made by living organisms through chemical reactions?

Answer: Bioluminescence

11. True or false: Kelp are plants.?

Answer: False

12. Sea stars scoot along using hundreds of tiny what?

Answer: Tube feet

#### EASY MARINE BIOLOGY TRIVIA

1. What is a coastal water body where freshwater mixes with seawater called?

Answer: An estuary

2. In which ocean is the Mariana Trench found?

Answer: The western Pacific Ocean

3. What is the name of the deepest known part of the ocean?

Answer: Challenger Deep

4. True or false: Seagrasses are a type of seaweed.?

Answer: False

5. The Gulf of California is also known by what other name?

Answer: The Sea of Cortez

6. Jellyfish Lake is located in which island nation?

Answer: Palau

7. Which sea is famous for its vast intertidal mudflats?

Answer: The Wadden Sea

8. What process allows some organisms to make organic matter using chemical energy instead of sunlight?

Answer: Chemosynthesis

9. What do scientists call the steady fall of organic material from upper waters down to the deep ocean?

Answer: Marine snow

10. Which term describes animals that can actively swim against currents?

Answer: Nekton

11. Many whales feed heavily on which small crustaceans?

Answer: Krill

12. Who narrated the television series "The Blue Planet"?

Answer: David Attenborough

13. Which famous ocean explorer co-developed the Aqua-Lung scuba system?

Answer: Jacques Cousteau

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/marine-biology>