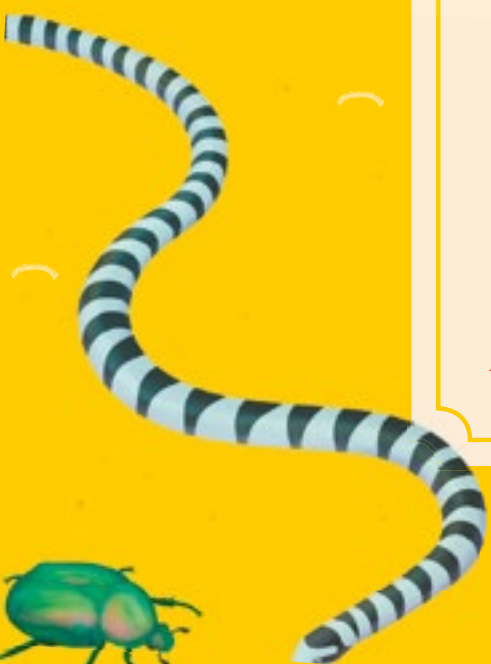
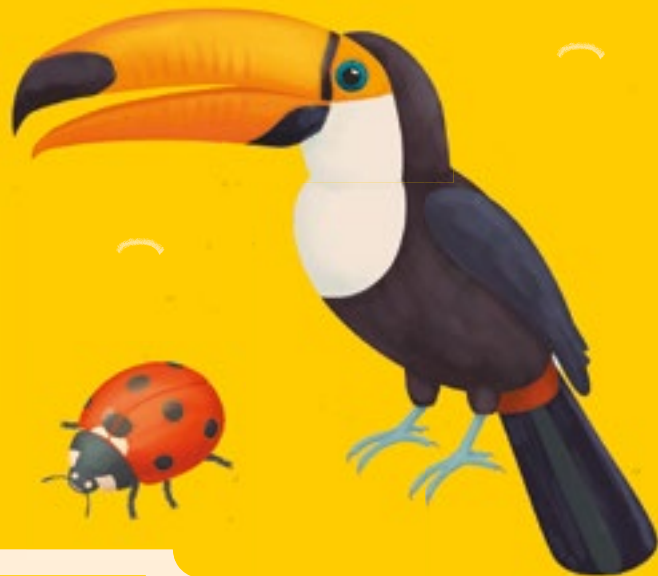


Encyclopedia of Animals

for Young Readers

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Albatros



MAMMALS

European hare

The young of the European hare spend only a couple of weeks in a burrowed nest where their mom breastfeeds them before they're forced to stand up on their own feet.

Red fox

As canines and predators, foxes are skilled hunters. But they're no picky eaters. When a fox is hungry, it doesn't say no to earthworms, beetles, or some fruit. Its curiosity often brings it all the way to human settlements.

Platypus

When this animal was first discovered, scientists thought it was some kind of joke. The platypus has a beak, four legs with a membrane between its toes, and a hairy body—and to top it all off, it lays eggs!

We're a diverse group of animals.

We live in water too!

Platypus

European hare

Koala

Red fox

Amazon river dolphin

Large flying fox

Most of us have fur.

We drink breast milk.

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This diverse group of animals includes not only humans, but also mice and elephants. Mammals have one thing in common: we all drink breast milk after we're born. The milk gives us all the nutrients we need to grow, as well as the necessary energy to keep our body temperature constant. Most mammals have fur. However, this doesn't apply to everybody. For example, dolphins and whales may look like fish but are actually mammals. Their bodies have adapted perfectly to the water environment. The young of many mammals are born relatively developed and can move independently. One exception is marsupials, whose offspring must first grow up a bit in their mom's pouch.

Koala

The easygoing koala doesn't bother finding a nest or burrow for its offspring. After birth, the tiny baby hides in its mom's belly pouch, where it feeds on her milk.

Amazon river dolphin

Dolphins have adapted to living in the water so well that they look like fish. But they're actually mammals, just like us. They feed their offspring breast milk and have to come to the surface to breathe.

Large flying fox

Some mammals are even capable of flying. The best-known chiropterans include flying foxes and bats. In the case of large flying foxes, their wingspan can be nearly five feet.

Cartilaginous fish

I have no bones!

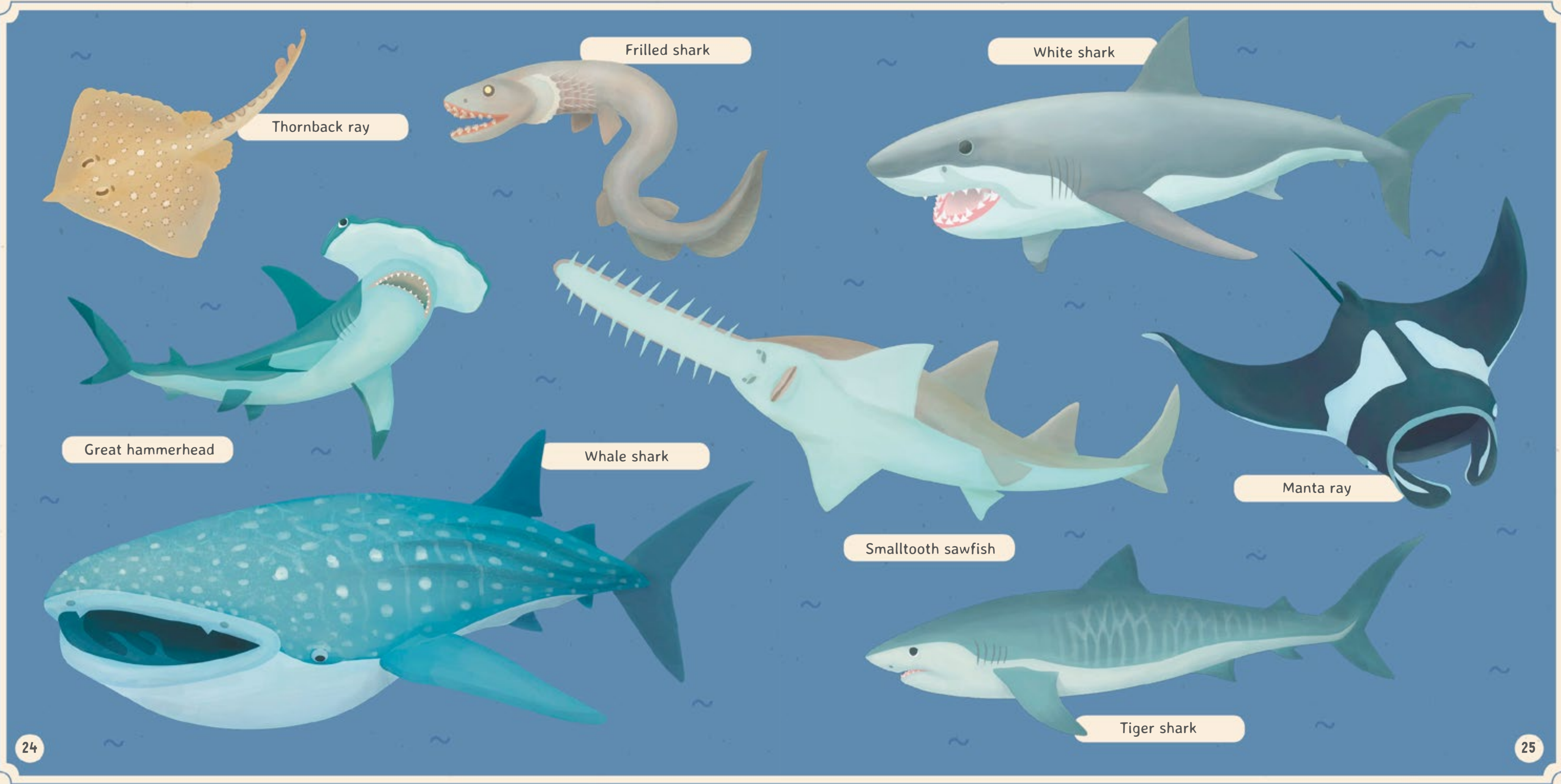
Well-known sea predators, sharks are categorized as cartilaginous fish. This group of animals, equipped with a cartilaginous skeleton, also includes rays and chimaeras. These animals never need to see a dentist because their teeth are constantly replaced with new ones.

Thornback ray

The pattern on the upper part of the ray's body makes it blend in with the bottom of the sea, where it spends most of its time. The thornback ray frequently appears in European coastal waters.

Frilled shark

The frilled shark looks like a species that went extinct long ago. It lives in deep waters. Its gills consist of a single slit, distorted to resemble a collar.



Great hammerhead

This shark can be up to 20 feet long. The unusual shape of its head makes it hard to miss.

Whale shark

Although this is the largest shark in the world, you really don't have to fear it. For food, this calm giant likes to swim around with its mouth open, filtering tiny organisms out of the water.

Smalltooth sawfish

Using a protrusion that is surrounded by teeth on both sides, this fish digs up food from the bottom of the sea, sometimes cutting into a shoal of fish to kill or wound them.

White shark

Even though the huge, toothy jaws of white sharks scare people half to death, these animals attack people only very rarely. White sharks prefer fish and seals.

Manta ray

The manta's elegant, large, strong fins make it look as if it flies like a bird. Its diet consists of plankton.

Tiger shark

The tiger shark is easily recognizable by the typical stripes on its sides. It's not a picky eater and often sinks its teeth into a carcass. You can encounter it in shallow coastal waters.

AMPHIBIANS

• Mexican axolotl

The axolotl has found the recipe for eternal youth. It's so happy as a larva that its body never transforms into that of an adult terrestrial specimen. The rare axolotls that live in the wild are usually black.

• European tree frog

The bright-green tree frogs are renowned for their vocalizations. They croak in the mating season and very often right before it starts raining.

• European common frog

The European common frog can be found in large numbers on the European continent. It prefers wet places near water so that it can easily escape predators.



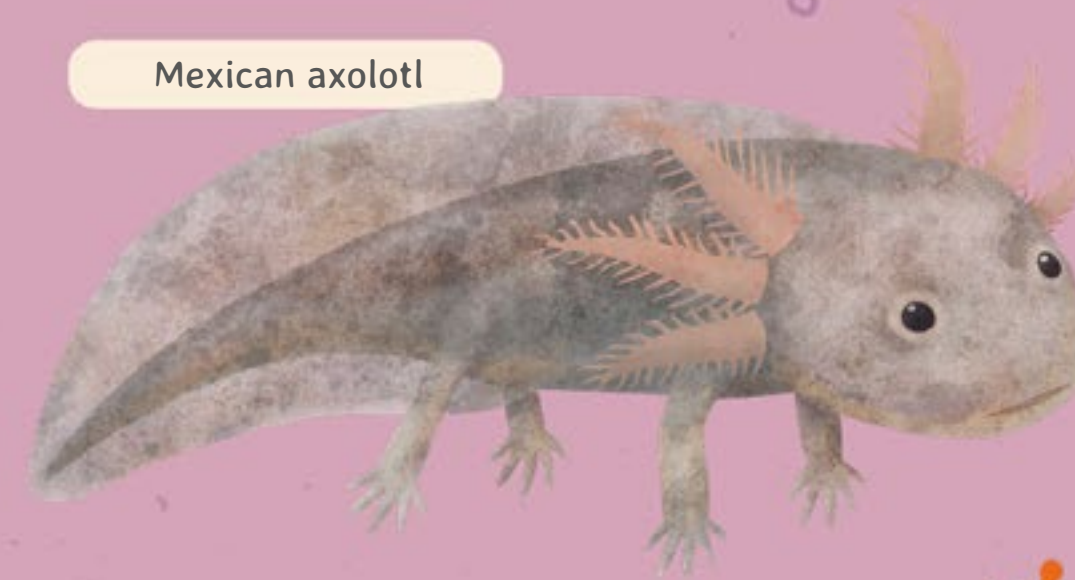
Land or water—we're fine with either.

Our skin excretes slime.

We breathe with lungs.

We breathe with gills.

Mexican axolotl



European tree frog



European common frog



Red-eyed treefrog



Poison dart frog



Fire salamander



Even though amphibians spend most of their life on dry land, they need water to develop. Most species begin as larvae, are born out of eggs laid in the water, and breathe with gills. The gradual transformation into an animal with limbs and lungs can be observed by studying tadpoles in a pond. The body of an amphibian is covered by smooth skin that excretes slime and toxic secretions. The slime prevents the body's surface from drying out while the venom discourages predators from attacking. The wet skin, filled with blood, allows some species to breathe with the surface of their body.

• Red-eyed treefrog

The motley red-eyed treefrog brings water up onto leaves that float on the surface of the pond and lays its eggs there. The hatched tadpoles then fall off the leaves directly into the pond.

• Poison dart frog

The dazzling colors of poison dart frogs serve as a warning to prospective attackers. Their skin is covered with lethal venomous secretions.

• Fire salamander

The fire salamander most often lives in European mountain forests. Its larvae grow up in small lakes or brooks.

Lizards

Good thing I'm not a snake.

Snakes have it easy—they lie around all day and the simple shape of their body allows them to shed their skin whole. But being a lizard and having legs is certainly more fun. Slowworms probably don't think so, though—although they're actually lizards, their legs have atrophied.

• Panther chameleon

The relatively large panther chameleons are distinguished by their motley pattern. Their body changes colors depending on the light, temperature, or even the chameleon's mood.

• Plumed basilisk

The basilisk can be most often found up in tree branches, lying in wait for small animals. It can be very agile if it needs to, and its strong hind legs allow it to run even on water.

• Viviparous lizard

In Europe and Asia, this lizard's habitat extends all the way to the Arctic region. The viviparous lizard can survive hard frosts by falling into the deep winter sleep of hibernation.



Panther chameleon



Plumed basilisk



Thorny devil



Slowworm



Frilled lizard



Viviparous lizard



Marine iguana



Komodo dragon



Sulawesi lined gliding lizard

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• Marine iguana

These large lizards, which live on the coasts of the Galapagos Islands, are surprisingly good divers. They graze on algae. When their body temperature drops too low, they have to come back to the coast to get warmer.

• Komodo dragon

This is one truly scary lizard, due not only to its size and appearance but also to its ability to kill large animals. As the largest living lizard, it can lethally wound a buffalo or deer with a single bite of its mouth that's full of venomous teeth.

• Thorny devil

This Australian lizard isn't exactly a great runner, which is why it wears a camouflage piece of armor that's shaped like prickles.

• Slowworm

Slowworms are often miscategorized as snakes due to their appearance. Their eyelids and their ability to shed the end of their tail when attacked prove that they're actually related to lizards.

• Frilled lizard

By spreading its collar, the frilled lizard pretends it's larger than it really is, confusing its attackers for a couple of moments before it escapes up a tree.

• Sulawesi lined gliding lizard

The long ribs that spread its leathery wings allow the Sulawesi lined gliding lizard—also known as *Draco spilonotus*—to glide among trees. It can easily cover a hundred or more feet by gliding.

INVERTEBRATES

Barrel jellyfish

Jellyfish are primitive animals. Their gelatinous body is shaped like a bell and contains tentacles with stinging cells.

Mole-cricket

This insect resembles a mole, due to its stocky body and forelegs, which were made for digging. Just like a mole, mole-crickets spend most of their life in underground corridors.

Giant squid

That these huge cephalopods really exist has been proven by all the dead bodies that have washed up on shores. The largest specimens can be up to 65 feet long with its tentacles stretched out.

We have no spine or skull.

Can you spot us? We're tiny!

Our world is so diverse!

We were the first ones to inhabit the Earth.

Barrel jellyfish

Mole-cricket

Giant squid

Portuguese man-of-war

Centipede

Sea anemone

They don't have a spine or a skull that would contain a large brain. Most of them are tiny and easy to miss. But even if you take into account only ants and termites, their combined weight would easily surpass the weight of all the people living on Earth. The world of invertebrates is very diverse and includes many amazing creatures. The very first animals that inhabited our planet, they live both on dry land and in the oceans. The development of many invertebrate species has several stages. For example, the metamorphosis of cocooned caterpillars into adult butterflies is remarkable indeed.

Centipede

Centipedes can be up to a foot long. Each segment of their body is equipped with a pair of legs. The first pair has evolved into venomous claws.

Sea anemone

Relatives of corals and jellyfish, anemones lead a settled life. Their strong leg allows them to move only very slowly at the bottom of the sea—so slowly, in fact, that it's imperceptible to the naked eye.

Portuguese man-of-war

This formation consists of a colony of polyps and can be found floating on the water's surface. The inflated bladder has long tentacles that are full of stinging cells.

Mollusks

Welcome to my home—my shell.

The bodies of mollusks are protected by calcic shells. Octopuses, though, don't need any heavy casing—they have good senses and are masters at finding shelters. The double shell of mollusks like oysters is called a bivalve shell. The house of gastropods, such as snails, is known simply as a shell.

Giant clam

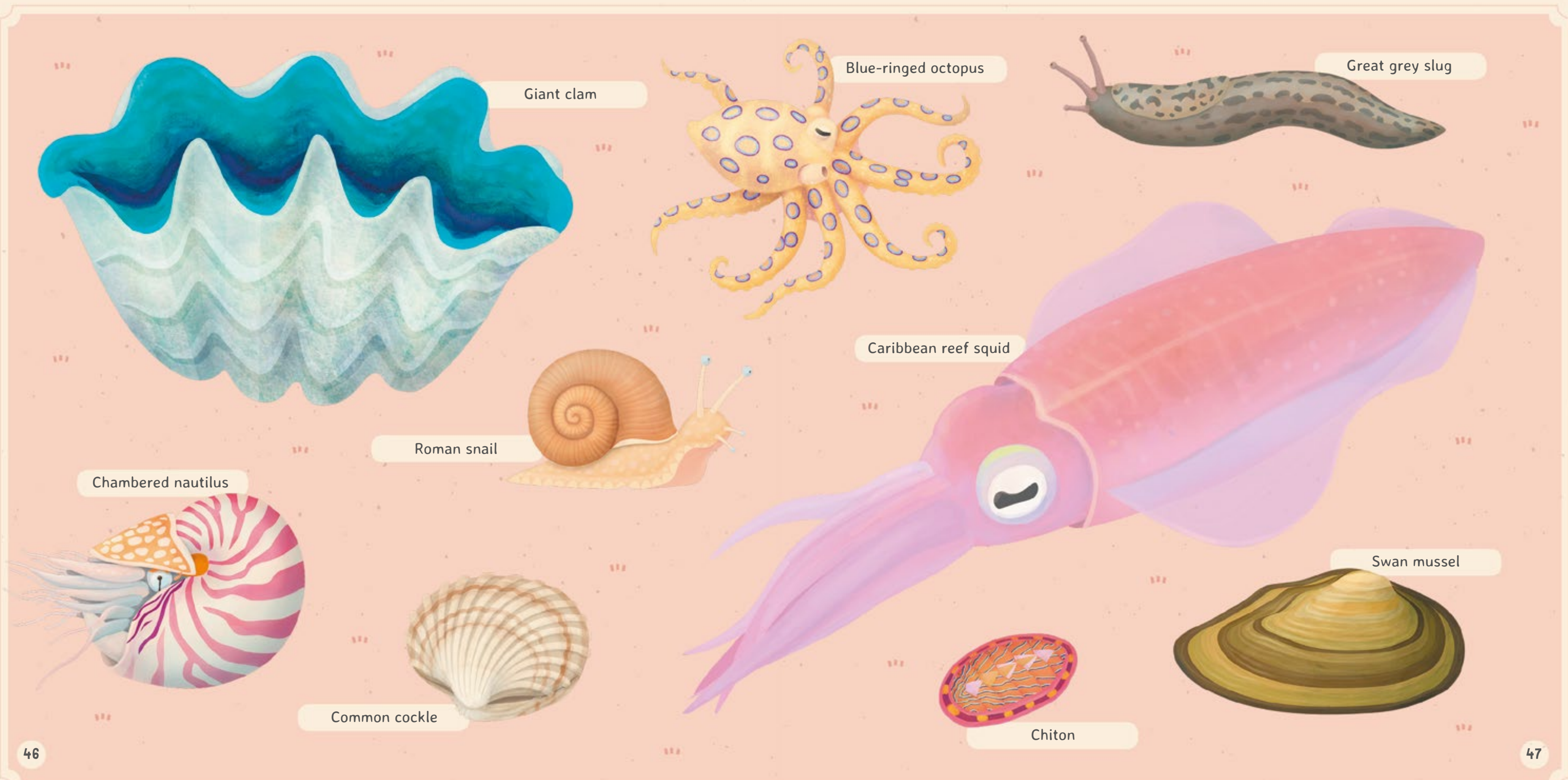
Weighing over 440 pounds, the giant clam is one of the largest living bivalves in the world. It can be found in the shallow, warm waters of coral reefs.

Roman snail

Unlike sea gastropods, the terrestrial ones have a light, thin shell. They like to take walks around the garden while it rains.

Chambered nautilus

The Nautilus family includes the only cephalopods in the world with external shells. The chambered nautilus has been living on Earth for over 500 million years, which is why it's called a "living fossil."



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Common cockle

The cockle's bivalve shell consists of two ribbed shells that are equal in size. Cockles play a big role in the food industry.

Blue-ringed octopus

The blue rings on its body serve as a warning that this smallish octopus shouldn't be touched. Its bite is venomous enough to kill even a grown man.

Great grey slug

The grey slug is approximately six inches long. Active mostly at night, it gobbles up a large amount of plants but also won't say no to small gastropods.

Caribbean reef squid

The Caribbean reef squid moves around by waving the fins on its sides. It can quickly change the color of its body. These visual effects are used for communication as well.

Chiton

The chiton's adhesive leg is protected by eight overlapping plates. It lives in sea bays on rocks and stones.

Swan mussel

Most bivalve species live in the sea. However, the swan mussel is a freshwater species. It can be found at the muddy bottoms of ponds or in the still waters of river inlets.



Vast numbers of animals live here on Earth, from tiny insects to large mammals.

The animal world is varied and quite interesting. This encyclopedia will introduce you to several hundreds of the best known and most interesting animals on the whole planet, and to top it off, it will help you put each one of them into the right group.

This book showcases a compelling selection of mammals, rodents, ungulates, primates, predators, cetaceans, birds, fish, cartilaginous fish, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and other animal groups that can be found all over Earth.

Beautiful illustrations and simple texts make this book indispensable for all children.

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