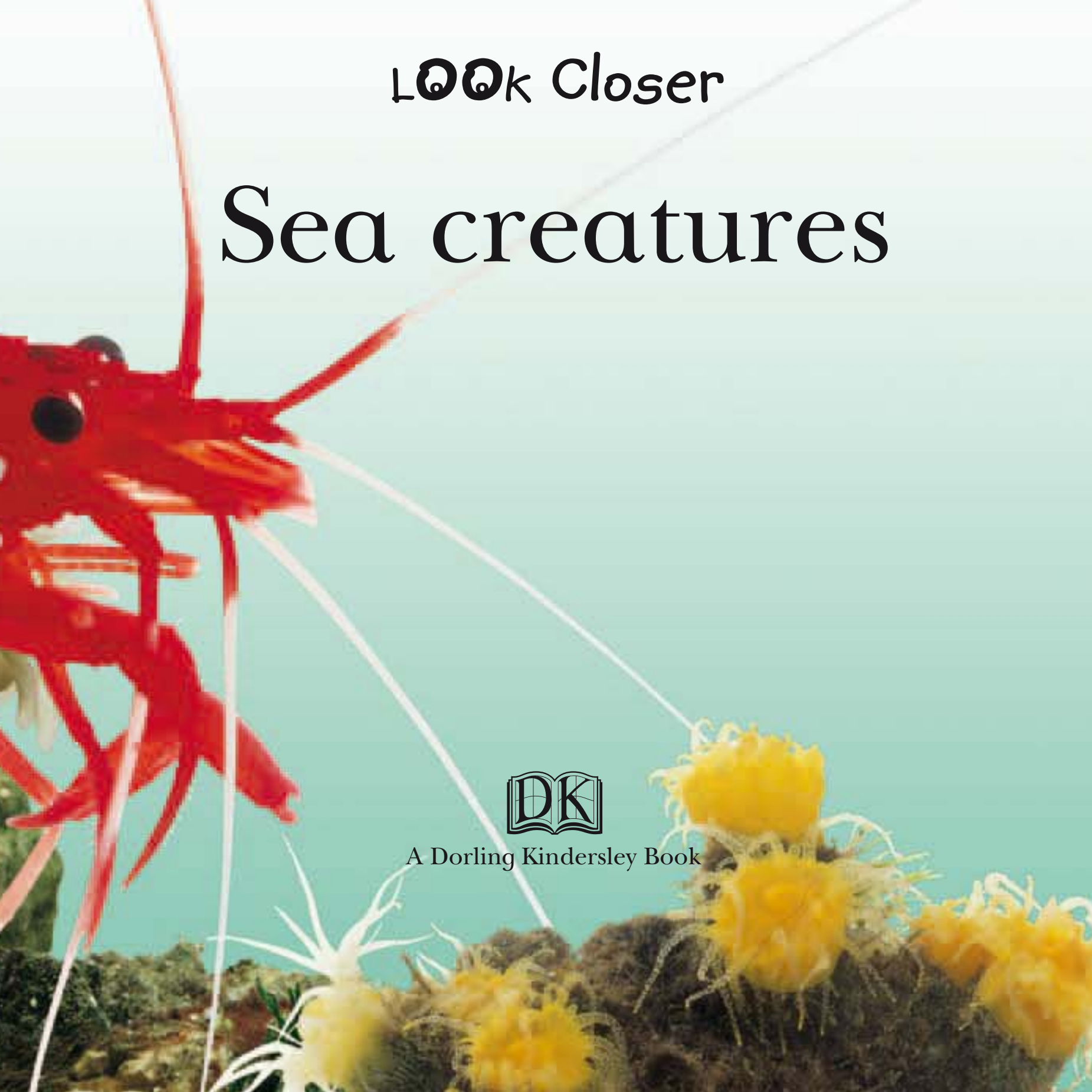


LOOK Closer

# Sea creatures



A Dorling Kindersley Book





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Look out for us. We will show you the size of every animal in this book.



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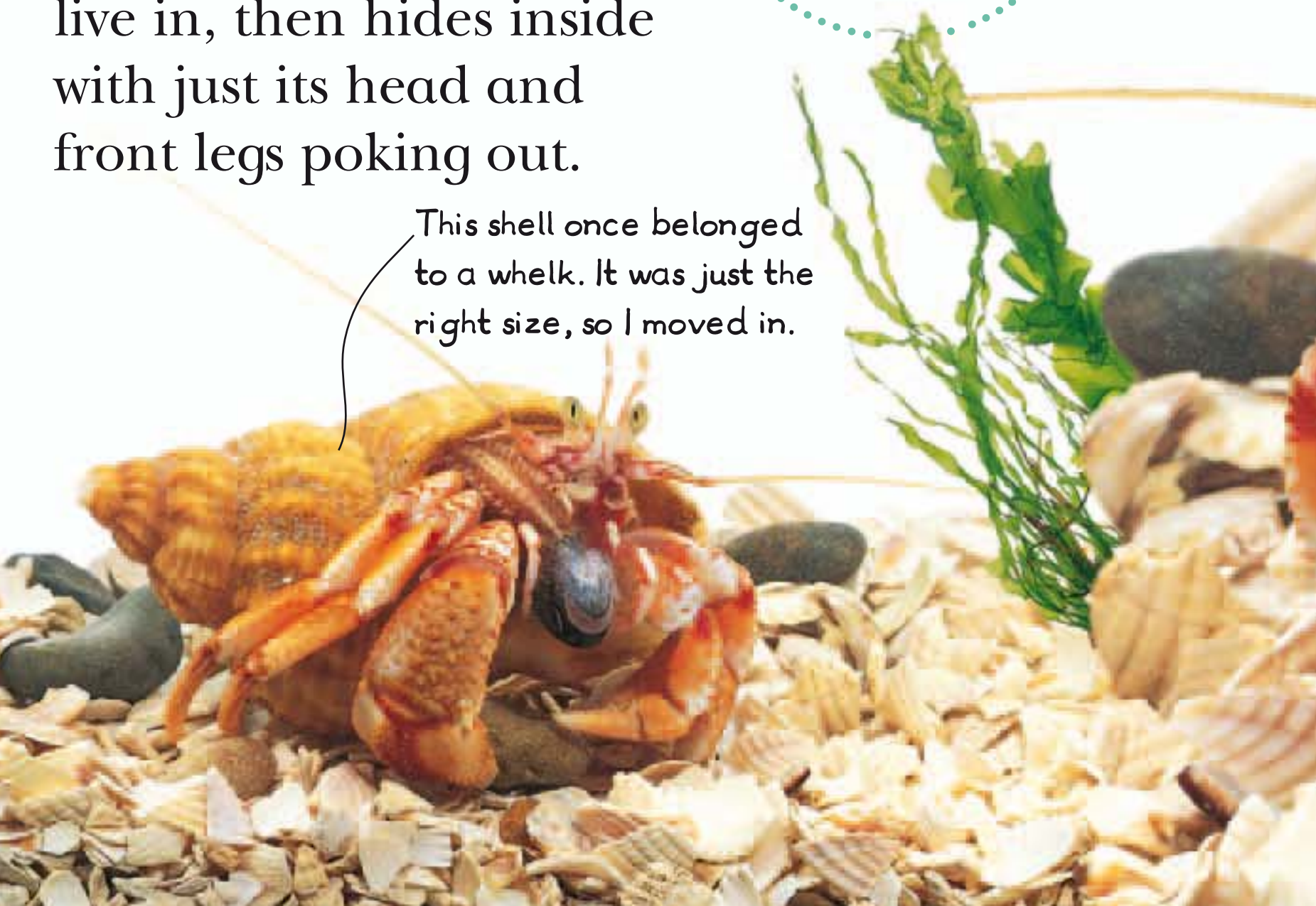
# Mobile home

This hermit crab drags its home wherever it goes. It finds a shell to live in, then hides inside with just its head and front legs poking out.

This shell once belonged to a whelk. It was just the right size, so I moved in.



This hermit crab's body reaches up to 10 cm (4 in) in length. As it grows, it finds larger shells to move into.





I can see all around  
because my eyes  
are on stalks.

munch  
munch

Mmm, a dead  
fish – just what  
I fancy for my  
breakfast.

**Did you know...**

... If a hermit crab is scared, it  
hides in its shell.  
It uses its biggest  
pincer to nip  
an attacker.



# An inky trail

Whoosh! An octopus has been startled, so it has squirted a cloud of black ink into the water. Now it shoots off to hide in its home under a pile of rocks.

I suck in water, then squirt it out of this funnel to push me along.



I use my arms to walk and to catch crabs and shellfish for my dinner.



This common octopus is 1 m (3 ft) long.

**swish**

**SWOOSH**





This is my eye. My pupil is slit-shaped, not round like yours.



**Did you know...**

... An octopus can change colour. If it is frightened it turns white, and if it is angry it turns blue.

I grip my prey with these rows of suckers.

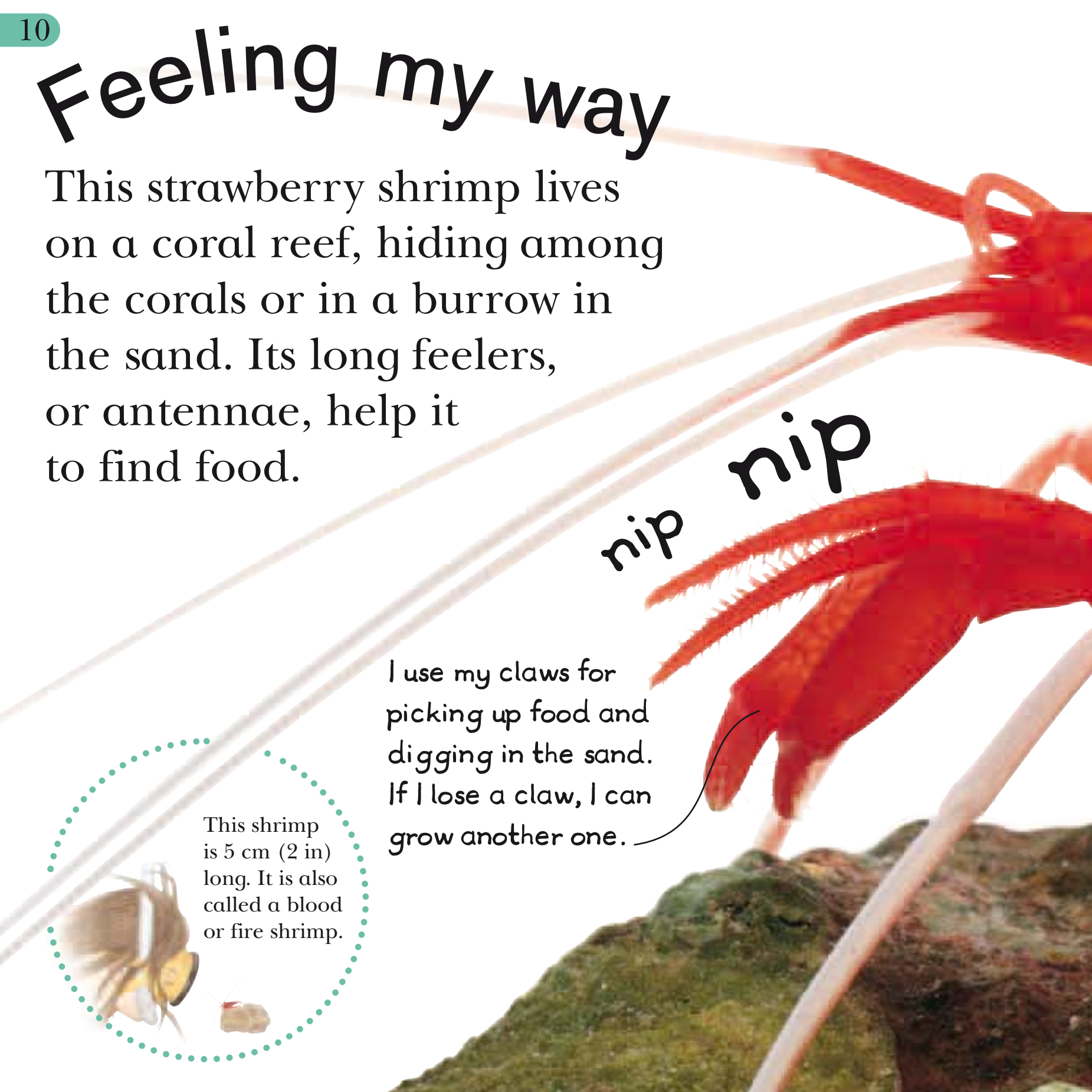
# Feeling my way

This strawberry shrimp lives on a coral reef, hiding among the corals or in a burrow in the sand. Its long feelers, or antennae, help it to find food.


nip nip

I use my claws for picking up food and digging in the sand. If I lose a claw, I can grow another one.

This shrimp is 5 cm (2 in) long. It is also called a blood or fire shrimp.







I have two pairs of antennae to help me find food.

My skeleton grows on the outside of my body, like a shell.

**Did you know...**

... Fish visit this shrimp to be cleaned up. The shrimp eats the tiny creatures that live on their scales.



# Crusty crab

Scuttling around a rock pool, a pie-crust crab is looking for food. It gets its name from the top part of its shell, which looks like the pastry on a pie.



An adult pie-crust crab measures about 15 cm (6 in) across its shell.

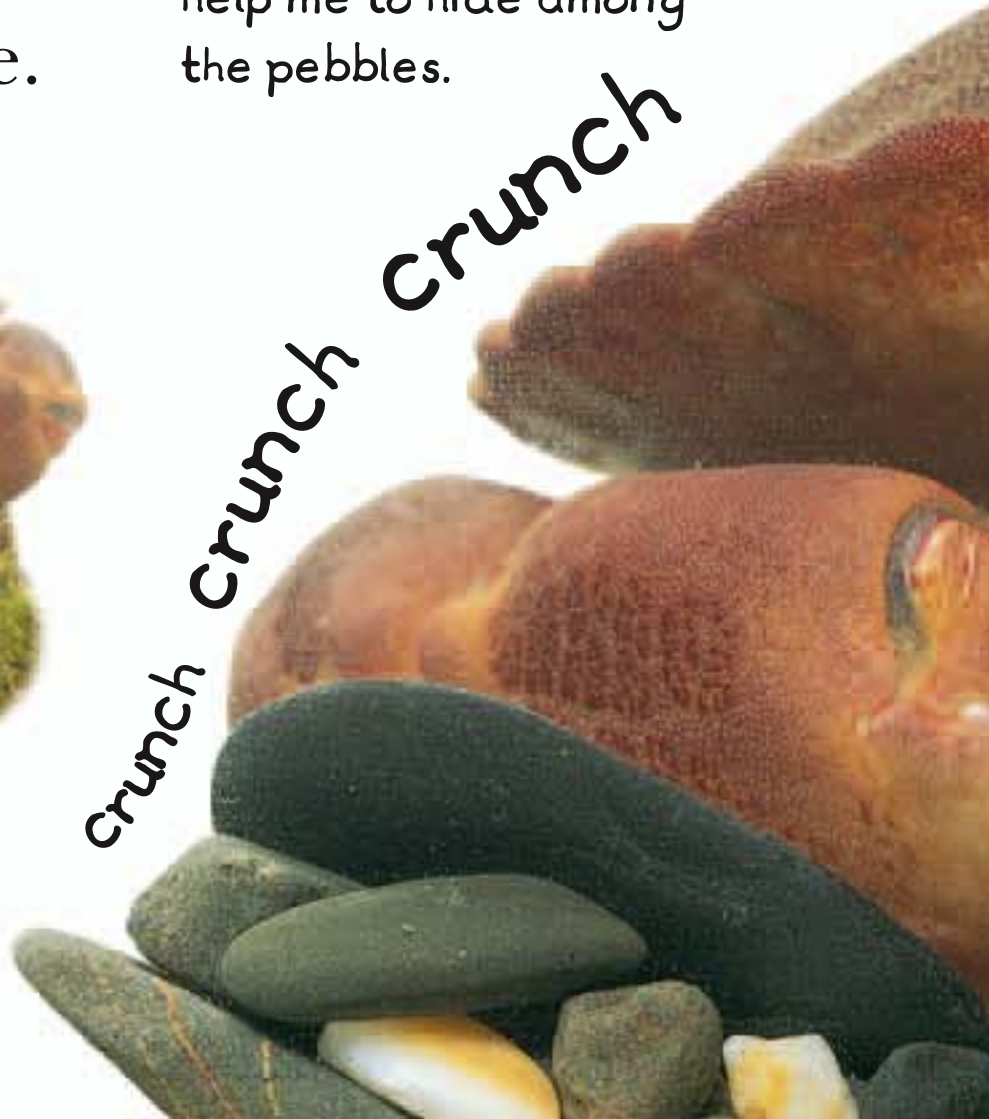
That's about the size of your hand.

The colours of my shell help me to hide among the pebbles.



I have two huge pincers for grabbing my food.

crunch crunch crunch





I eat shrimps and mussels.  
My mouth is sharp to help me  
bite through their shells.



**Did you know...**

... During her life, the female crab lays at least three million eggs. Only a few survive to be adults.



# Look! No head!

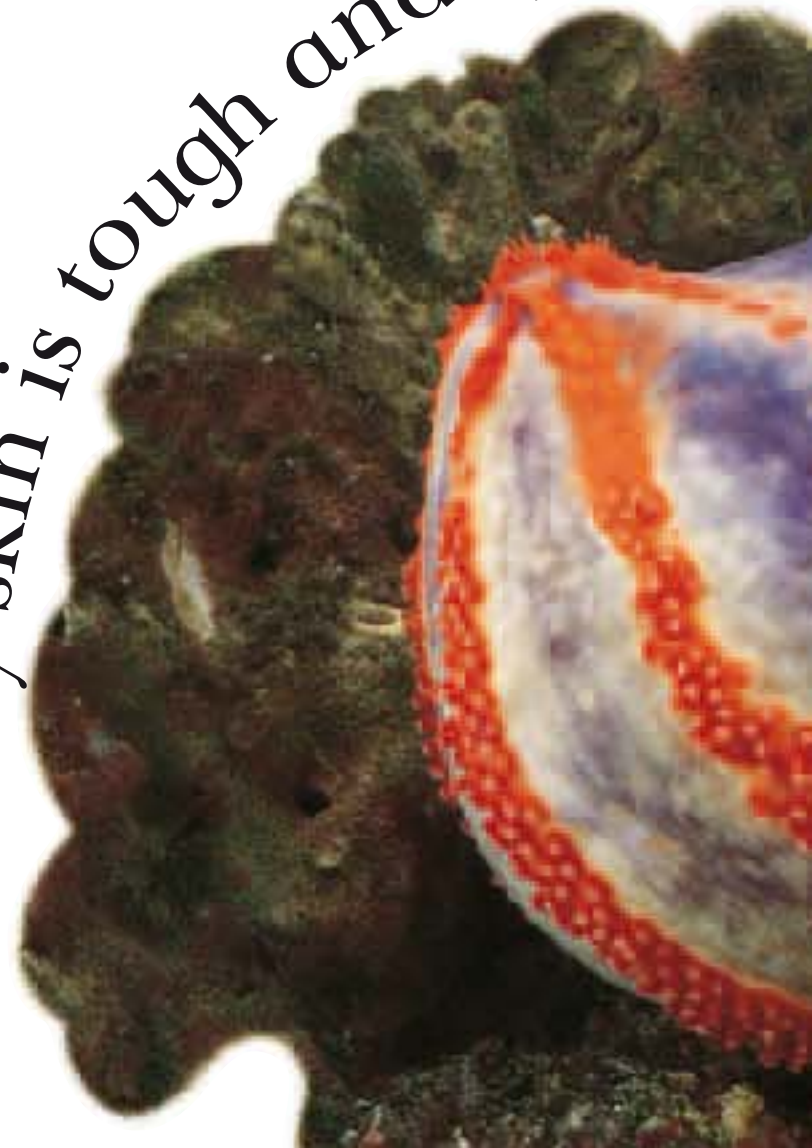
This strange-looking animal is a sea cucumber. It has no head or eyes, just a mouth and a flexible body.

I use the sticky tentacles around my mouth to catch my food.

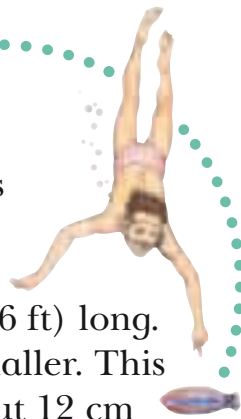


I feel around for tiny plants and animals.

My skin is tough and spiny.



The world's largest sea cucumber is about 2 m (6 ft) long. Most are smaller. This one is about 12 cm (5 in) long.





sticky

My mouth is hidden in the middle of my tentacles.

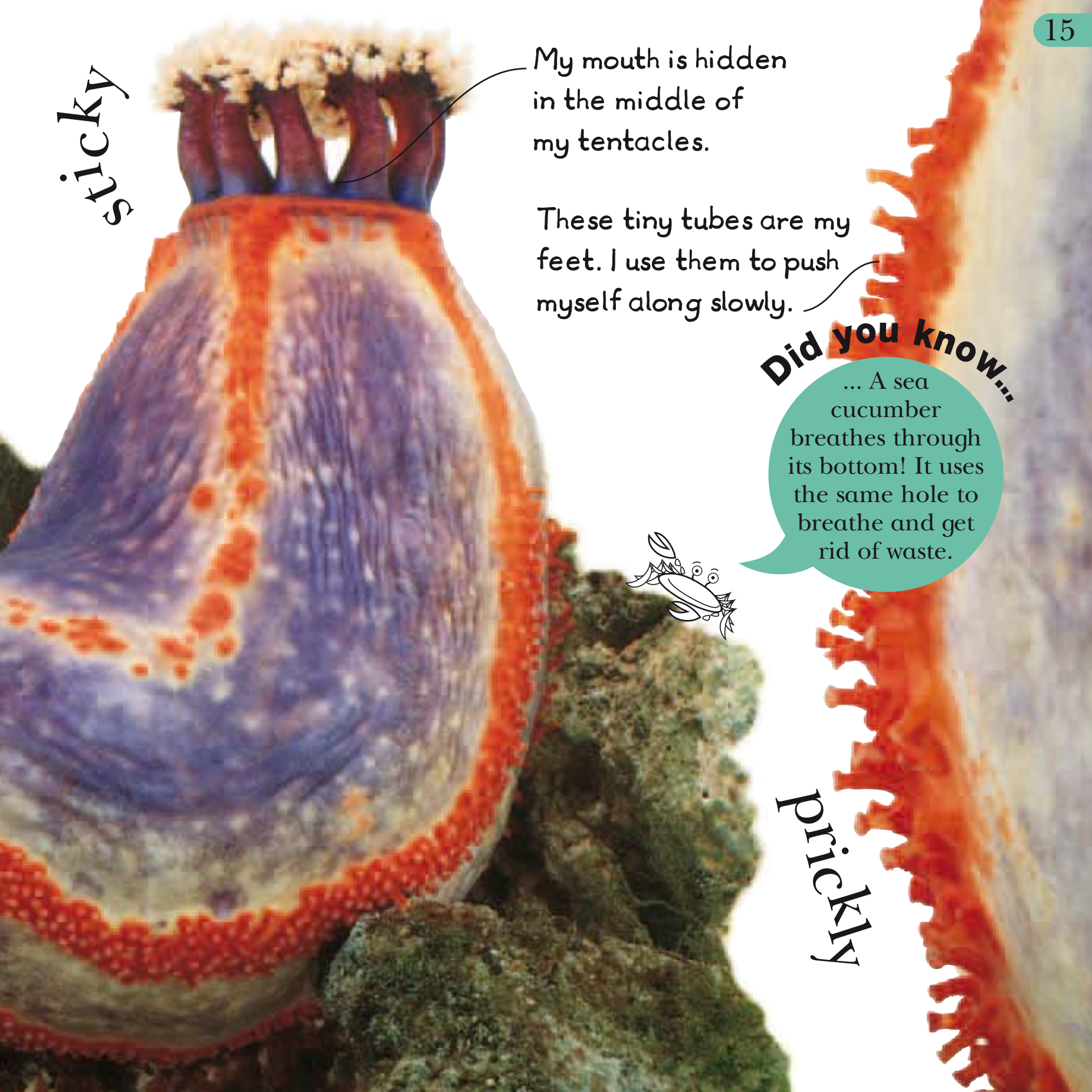
These tiny tubes are my feet. I use them to push myself along slowly.

Did you know...

... A sea cucumber breathes through its bottom! It uses the same hole to breathe and get rid of waste.



prickly



# Snappy shells

Lying on the seabed, a group of queen scallops are waiting for their next meal to float past. They trap tiny plants in the waving hairs around their shells.

I swim along by opening and shutting my shell, a bit like you clapping your hands.

**Did you know...**

... You can tell a scallop's age by counting the ridges on its shell. The more ridges, the older it is.




snaps


Snap!





A small illustration of a hand holding a scallop shell, enclosed in a dotted green circle.

These queen scallops  
reach 9 cm  
(3 ½ in).

A large, detailed illustration of a queen scallop, showing its mantle edge with rows of eyes and its siphons. A line points from the text to one of the eyes.

I've got rows of eyes,  
but I can't see well.  
I only sense light and  
things that move.

open, shut, open, shut

A collection of various scallop shells of different sizes and colors, including orange, brown, and white, scattered on a light-colored surface.

# Look! No arms!

These seahorses live on a coral reef. They can change colour to match the corals, which helps them to hide.

I hang on tight with my tail.

suck


slurp

Seahorses are small. These ones will grow to just 12 cm (5 in) in length.

I can suck up whole shrimp in my mouth, which is shaped like a straw.







I move around by  
beating the fin on my  
back, and I steer with  
two fins on my head.

I'm a grape coral.  
Don't touch me, or  
I'll sting you with my  
poisonous tentacles.

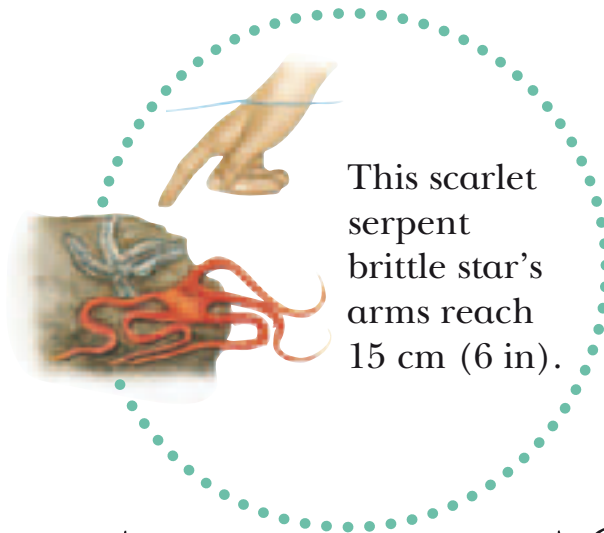
**Did you know...**

... Seahorses  
eat all day long.  
A young one can  
hoover up as many  
as 3,500 shrimp  
in one day!



# Sea stars

Did you know that if a starfish or a brittle star loses an arm, they just grow another?



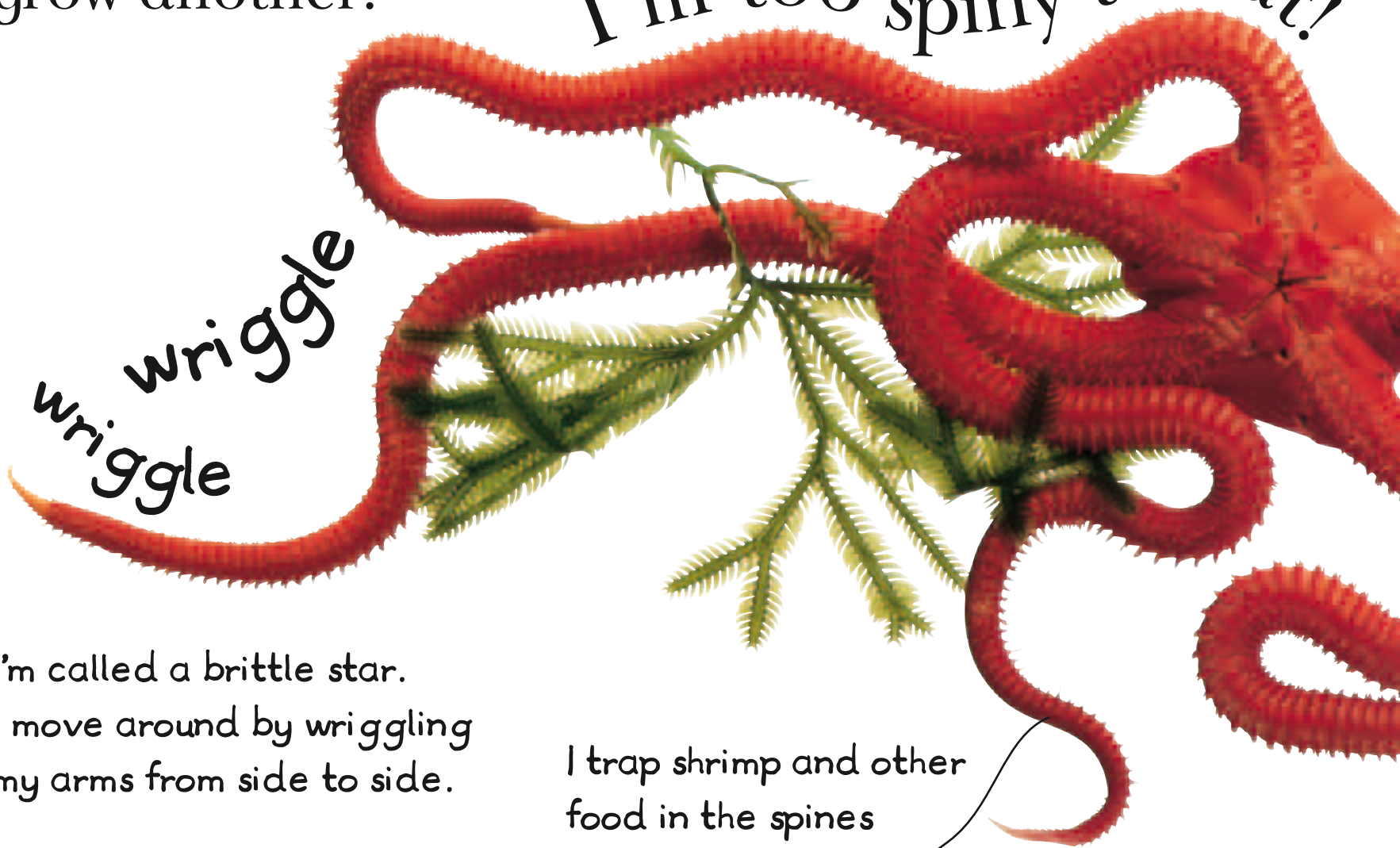
This scarlet serpent brittle star's arms reach 15 cm (6 in).

I'm too spiny to eat!


wriggle  
wriggle

I'm called a brittle star.  
I move around by wriggling  
my arms from side to side.

I trap shrimp and other  
food in the spines  
along my arms.







I have an eye  
on the end of  
each arm.

## Did you know...

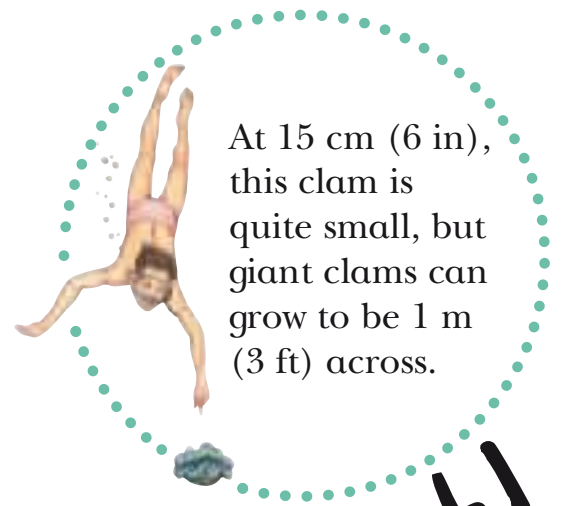
... Starfish eat  
mussels and  
scallops. They pull  
their victims' shells  
apart with their  
strong arms.





# Open wide!

This beautifully coloured shell belongs to a giant blue clam. It can open and shut its shell, but it can't move about.



At 15 cm (6 in), this clam is quite small, but giant clams can grow to be 1 m (3 ft) across.

squirt!





I open my shell to feed,  
and shut it tight if  
I am frightened.

## Did you know...

... Sometimes a blue clam makes a pearl. It can grow to be as big as a golf ball!



I suck in water  
and flush out  
waste through  
two big tubes  
called siphons.

My green  
patches are  
tiny plants  
called algae.  
I eat them!

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# Glossary

**Algae** are simple plants. Seaweeds are types of algae.

**Antennae** feelers that a creature uses to sense where it is or to find food.

**Coral** is made up of tiny animals called polyps. Millions of polyps join together to form a coral reef.

**Fin** a flattened limb used by fish to move or change direction.

**Pearl** a hard, round substance. A pearl forms inside some molluscs around a grain of sand.

**Poison** a liquid or other substance that kills or harms an animal if the animal touches or eats it.

**Suckers** cup-shaped pads that stick to surfaces, helping a creature to grip.

**Siphon** a tube that a sea creature uses to suck in or send out seawater.

**Tentacles** a long arm used for touching, feeding, and smelling.

