



SEA ANEMONE

The relationship that the clownfish has with a sea anemone is truly a wonderful design feature. Very early in life, the clownfish must find a host with which to live.

HABITAT: Tropical waters

THAT'S AMAZING: The orange clownfish is also called the clown anemone fish. This fish eats the sea anemone's leftovers. Usually a female clownfish lives with other males in a group. When the female dies the head male changes sex and becomes the female.



CLOWN TRIGGER FISH

The jaws of a clown triggerfish are extremely powerful. They can break open the shells of mollusks and crabs, which they eat.

HABITAT: Tropical waters of the Pacific Ocean.

DIET: Sea urchins, mollusks and crustaceans.

FACTS: The fish is also called the big-spotted triggerfish. It is considered a highly prized aquarium fish but it has a nasty disposition and usually requires tank of its own.



RED ANGELFISH

It eats parasites that are using a number of other fish as hosts.

HABITAT: Coral reefs in Atlantic Ocean

DIET: Algae, plankton and fish leftovers

FACTS: French angelfish changes color as it ages. Each male defends a territory containing 2-5 females. He performs courtship displays and nuzzles the female at times.



BLUE TANG FISH

HABITAT: In reefs in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, west of Hawaii to East Africa

DIET: Browses on filamentous algae

THAT'S AMAZING: The yellow tang is designed with sharp spines near its tail to help protect itself against predators and to anchor it to the rocks while sleeping. The mouth is perfectly designed to eat the algae on rocks.



OCTOPUS

HABITAT: Temperate northwest and northeast Pacific waters.

DIET: Small crabs, and scallops, snails, fish, turtles and crustaceans.

THAT'S AMAZING: It squirt purple ink at a supposed predator as a defense mechanism. It is considered to be one of the most intelligent sea creatures. Newly hatched young are the size of a grain of rice. The octopus sense of touch is very acute.



PARROT FISH

HABITAT: Tropical coral reefs of the Caribbean, from the West Indies to Florida

THAT'S AMAZING: This family is named "parrotfishes" because the shape of the teeth resembles a bird's beak plus the fact that they are often brilliantly colored. Some species of parrotfish secrete a mucous envelope to sleep in. This mucous is thought to give it some protection from predators. The parrotfish plays an important role in the health of the coral reef-it feeds on algae that should smother the coral if left to grow.



SEAHORSE

HABITAT: Shallow temperate and tropical waters worldwide.

DIET: Zooplankton, small crustaceans, and larval fishes.

FACTS: The genus name Hippocampus is the Greek's description of a mythical god that was half-horse and half-fish. Some seahorse species can change their color and/or pattern to help them blend into their surroundings. The seahorse can move its eyes independently of one another.



SEA STAR

HABITAT: Worldwide in all of earth's ocean.

DIET: Barnacles, chitons, snails, urchins, limpets, sponges and sea anemones

FACTS: They are known as "starfish" but they are not fish at all. They can regrow arms that are lost, and if cut in half, some stars can grow into two separate creatures. The fastest sea star moves at 360 ft per hour that's only slightly faster than snail.