

Animals in danger



Credit: Valkyrie Pierce

45 mins

Brownies

About this activity

Sadly, over 360 marine species are in danger of extinction. Learn about the UK's endangered marine animals and the people who work to protect them.

Outcomes:

- Learn about some of the UK's endangered marine animals
- Learn about jobs in the conservation sector

You will need:

For each pair.

- [Life in UK seas image](#)
- [Life in UK seas answer sheet](#) or sheets of paper and pens
- A set of [Endangered marine animals cards](#)
- A [Conservation career game board](#) and set of [job cards](#)

Note: If you have access to a laminator, you could laminate the boards and cards for future games.

Animals in danger

Humans are putting marine animals in danger. Sea creatures get caught up in fishing nets or litter in the ocean. They are also affected by climate change, which is destroying fragile marine habitats. Globally, over 25,000 marine species are at risk of dying out.

Part 1 Life in UK seas

What do you think of when you hear the word 'ocean'? Are there particular colours, sounds, smells? Does anyone have a favourite marine animal? Do you have a favourite place by the sea?

1. In small groups or individually, look at the [Life in UK seas image](#). How many of the 15 species can you name in 5 minutes? You can write your answers on the [Life in UK seas answer sheet](#) or a piece of paper.
2. Who named the most? Were there any surprises?
3. How do you feel when you look at this image?

Part 2 Most endangered

In pairs, play a game of [Endangered animal facts](#). This is a Top-Trumps-style game. The cards give facts about eight endangered marine animals in the UK.

1. Give each player in the pair 4 cards.
2. Take it in turns to choose a category. Whoever has the highest number for the category wins the card.
3. Keep playing until one player has all the cards.

Part 3 Match maker

1. Thousands of people in the UK and around the world are working to help endangered marine animals. In pairs, play the [Conservation careers matching game](#). Can you match the job title to the job description?
2. Once you've matched all the jobs to the descriptions, talk about the roles. Are you surprised by any of these jobs?

Part 4 Take it further

How do you feel about what you've learnt about endangered animals? What could you do to help?

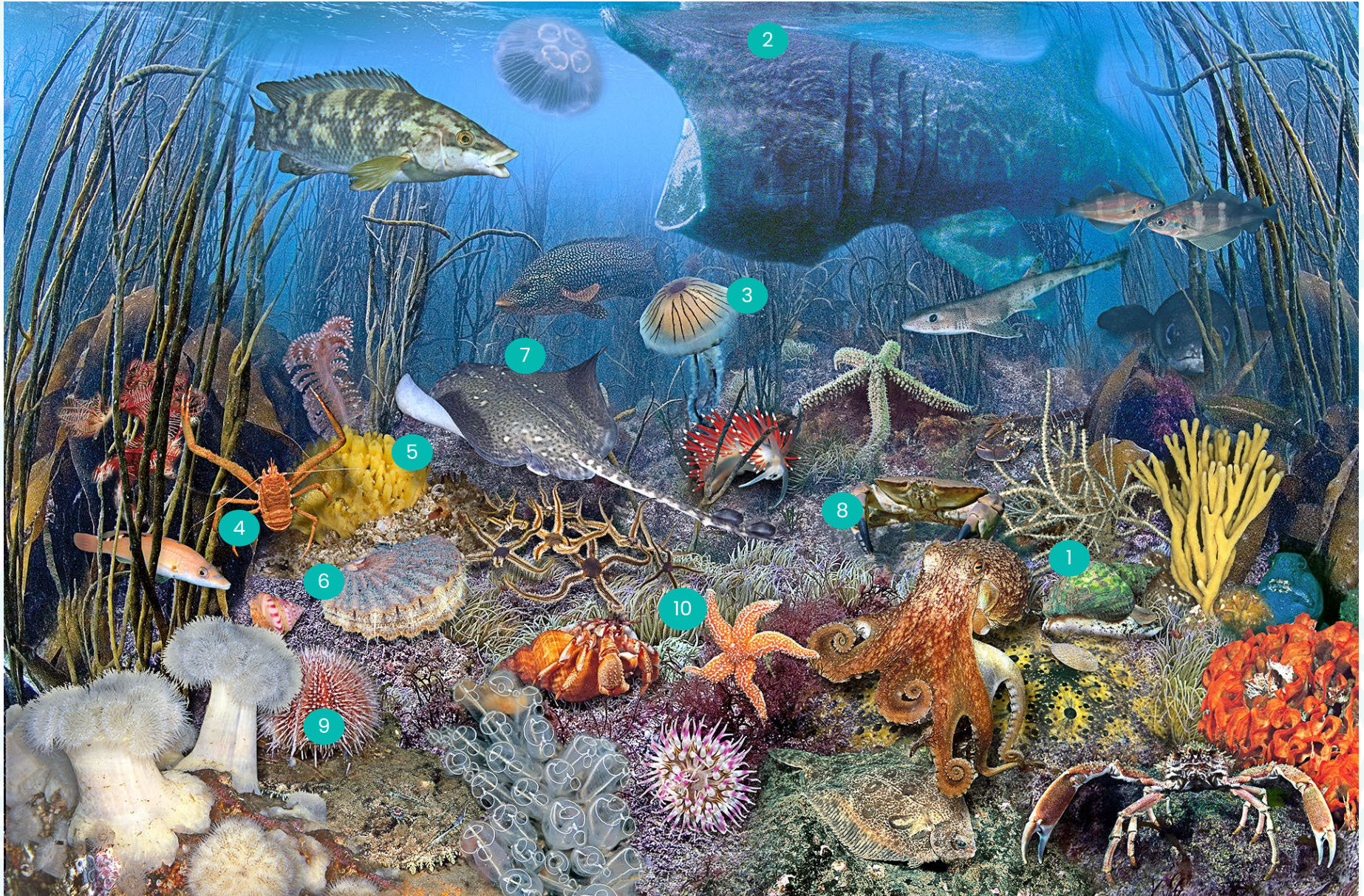
1. 70% of litter in the ocean is made of plastic. Could you reduce the amount of plastic you use? Our [Plastic-free party activity](#) shows you how to plan a celebration without any single-use plastic.
2. Alternatively, you could find out more about overfishing with our [Fishy business activity](#) and use your powers of persuasion to help tackle the overfishing crisis.
3. Are you interested in working in conservation? You could research the roles more at home as part of your Jobs interest badge.

Life in UK seas – answers

1. Common whelk
2. Basking shark
3. Compass jellyfish
4. Long-clawed squat lobster
5. Hedgehog sponge
6. Great (king) scallop
7. Thornback ray
8. Edible crab
9. Common (or edible) sea urchin
10. Common starfish

Life in UK seas

Can you name these living things found in the seas around the UK?



Name: _____

Life in UK seas

Write down the names of the creatures you know

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Endangered UK marine animal fact cards



European eel

Critically endangered

Max length: **1.3m**
Max weight: **6.5kg**
Max lifespan: **85yrs**
Depth range: **700m**
Max speed: **2.4kmh**



Angel shark

Critically endangered

Max length: **2.4m**
Max weight: **32kg**
Max lifespan: **35yrs**
Depth range: **150m**
Max speed: **Unknown**



Sei whale

Endangered

Max length: **20m**
Max weight: **28,000kg**
Max lifespan: **60yrs**
Depth range: **300m**
Max speed: **50kmh**



Cod

Vulnerable

Max length: **1.2m**
Max weight: **40kg**
Max lifespan: **25yrs**
Depth range: **300m**
Max speed: **8kmh**



Common skate

Critically endangered

Max length: **2.5m**
Max weight: **88kg**
Max lifespan: **100yrs**
Depth range: **600m**
Max speed: **22.5kmh**



Short-snouted seahorse

Not enough data

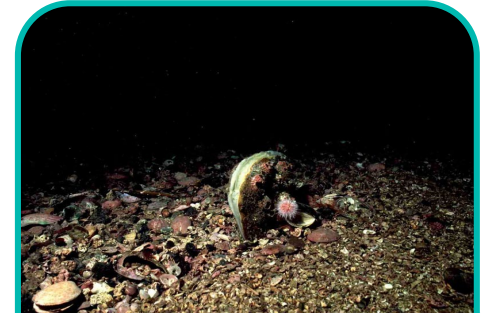
Max length: **0.2m**
Max weight: **0.0018kg**
Max lifespan: **5yrs**
Depth range: **77m**
Max speed: **0.001kmh**



Velvet scoter

Vulnerable

Max length: **0.5m**
Max weight: **1.2kg**
Max lifespan: **12yrs**
Depth range: **0m**
Max speed: **2.4kmh**



Fanshell

Critically endangered

Max length: **0.5m**
Max weight: **0.15kg**
Max lifespan: **32yrs**
Depth range: **400m**
Max speed: **0kmh**

Conservation careers job descriptions

I help marine animals in danger

I tell people about the problems animals face and how they can help

I help people take action to help the ocean emergency

I help people experience the marine environment

I teach people about animals and nature

I raise money to help save nature

I make films and tell stories about nature and the problems it faces

I persuade governments to change laws

I protect animals and the places they live

I study the behavior of marine animals

I farm in the sea and water

I carry out research

Conservation careers job cards

Cut out these cards and match up the job to the correct description

**Education
Officer**



**Marine Animal
Conservation
Officer**



Filmmaker



**Marketing
Officer**



**Scuba
Instructor**



**Marine
Research
Officer**



**Community
Volunteer
Manager**



**Conservation
Warden**



**Campaigns
Officer**



**Fundraising
Officer**



**Marine
Biologist**



Aquaculturist



Conservation careers game - answers

I help marine animals in danger

Marine Animal Conservation Officer

I tell people about the problems animals face and how they can help

Marketing Officer

I help people take action to help the ocean emergency

Community Volunteer Manager

I help people experience the marine environment

Scuba Instructor

I teach people about animals and nature

Education Officer

I raise money to help save nature

Fundraising Officer

I make films and tell stories about nature and the problems it faces

Filmmaker

I persuade governments to change laws

Campaigns Officer

I protect animals and the places they live

Conservation Warden

I study the behavior of marine animals

Marine Biologist

I farm in the sea and water

Aquaculturist

I carry out research

Marine Research Officer