

ANIMAL FUN FACT FRIDAY

Marine Biome: Coral Reef

Dugongs:

- Closet land relative is the elephant
- Also known as "sea cows"
- Only completely herbivorous marine mammal

Leopard Sharks:

- Homebodies; stay in same area much of life
- Rarely grow more than 4 to 5 feet
- Ovoviviparous - eggs hatched inside body

Moray Eels:

- 2 sets of teeth
- Secrete layer of mucous that covers skin; contains various toxins
- Can tie themselves into a knot when attempting to swallow large prey

Octopuses:

- 3 hearts
- Blue blood; copper-based blood rather than iron-based blood like in humans
- Ink sprayed in predator's eye causes blinding irritation

Sea Stars:

- No brain and no blood
- Eat inside out; stomach exits mouth to digest food
- Can have up to 40 arms

Sea Anemones:

- Come in a variety of shapes and colors
- Flower-like predatory animal
- Stinging cells on tentacles

Blue Tang Fish:

- Can change color from light blue to purple
- Often swim in large schools
- Flesh is poisonous, though not life-threatening

Moorish Idols:

- Only member of the Zanclidae fish family
- Very long dorsal fin that trails behind while swimming
- Popular aquarium fish, but difficult to care for

Porcupine Pufferfish:

- If alarmed can inflate themselves with water or air up to 3 times normal size
- Spines from head to tail for protection
- Teeth are a fused beak-like structure

