

First published in 2006 by Orpheus Books Ltd.,
6 Church Green, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 4AW, England

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ISBN XXXXXXXXXX

Printed and bound in China

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introduction

Welcome to the world's oceans. Water covers 70 percent of our planet, and the seas and oceans teem with life. There are millions of creatures that live here—in, on, or above the water. We'd

like to tell you what our lives are like, so ask us questions and we'll do our best to answer you.

Maybe you'd like to know where the manatee lives? Or which

animals can live at the very bottom of the ocean

where it is freezing

cold, pitch-black, and completely silent? The parrotfish will tell you what life is like on a

coral reef, the green turtle explains why she swims thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean to lay

her eggs, while the albatross describes

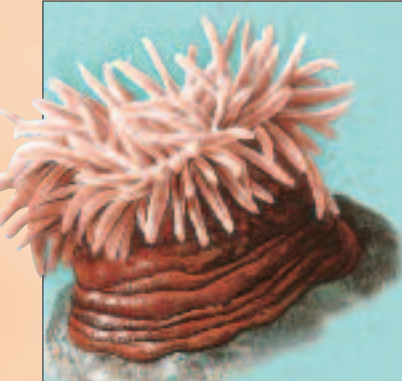
what it's like to fly round the world. First of all you will hear

from one of the scariest creatures in the

ocean—the great white shark ...



what is it like to be a marine creature?



I am a sea anemone. I might look pretty, but I'm a vicious predator. Those tentacles around my mouth have deadly stingers

I live on rocks in shallow pools. When danger comes, I can flatten myself against the rocks.

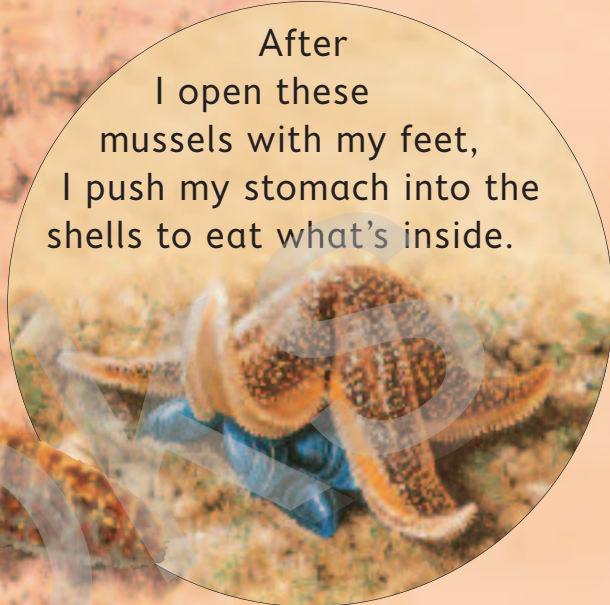
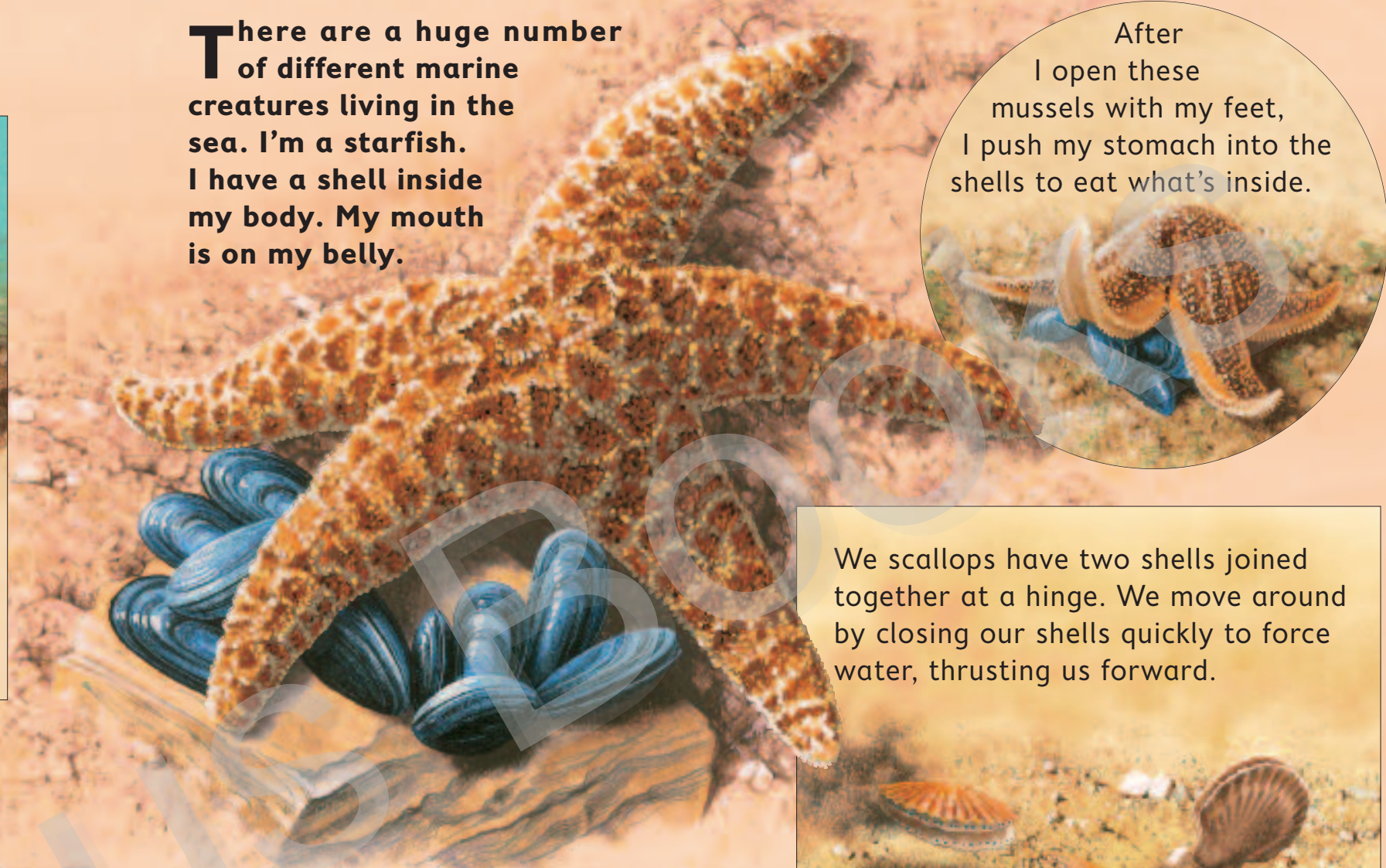


I am a sea urchin. I spend my life eating algae (tiny plants) on the sea bed. Inside my spiny shell I'm really just a stomach with a mouth at the bottom and a bottom at the top.



We lobsters live busy lives. I crawl along the sea bed in shallow water, hide in rock piles, catch shrimp, and dig for clams and urchins with my strong claws. My body has a hard shell that can't grow. When it gets too small, I molt, or shed my shell. A new one hardens in its place.

There are a huge number of different marine creatures living in the sea. I'm a starfish. I have a shell inside my body. My mouth is on my belly.

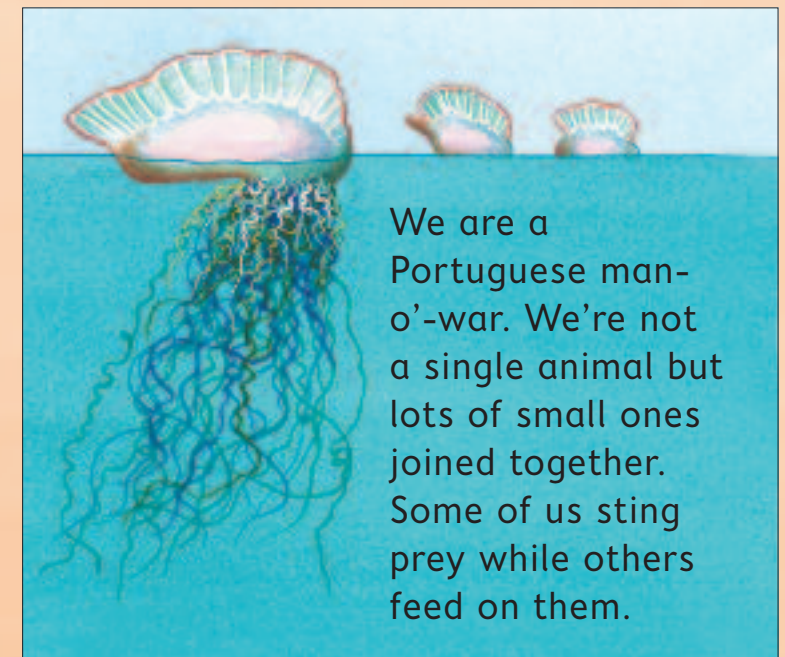


After I open these mussels with my feet, I push my stomach into the shells to eat what's inside.

We scallops have two shells joined together at a hinge. We move around by closing our shells quickly to force water, thrusting us forward.



I am a sea slug. I eat sea anemones and I store their stingers on my back to use as a weapon.



We are a Portuguese man-o'-war. We're not a single animal but lots of small ones joined together. Some of us sting prey while others feed on them.