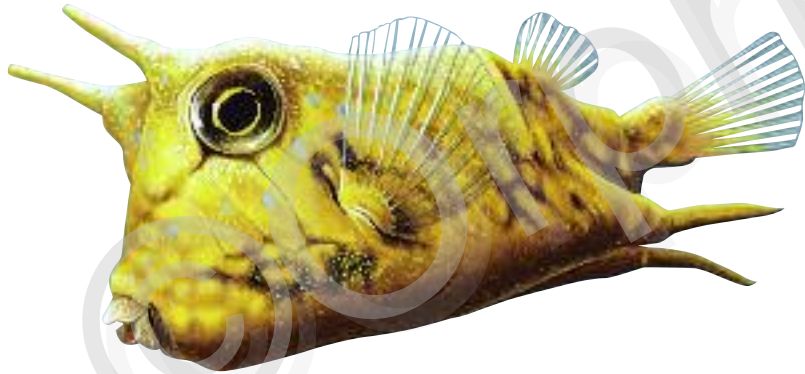


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## Ocean creatures

The ocean waters are home to countless millions of creatures. There are fish, whales, dolphins, seals and turtles, of course, but also vast numbers of invertebrates—animals that do not have backbones. These include octopuses, lobsters, sea anemones, shellfish, jellyfish and many others. All us ocean-dwellers lead fascinating lives ...

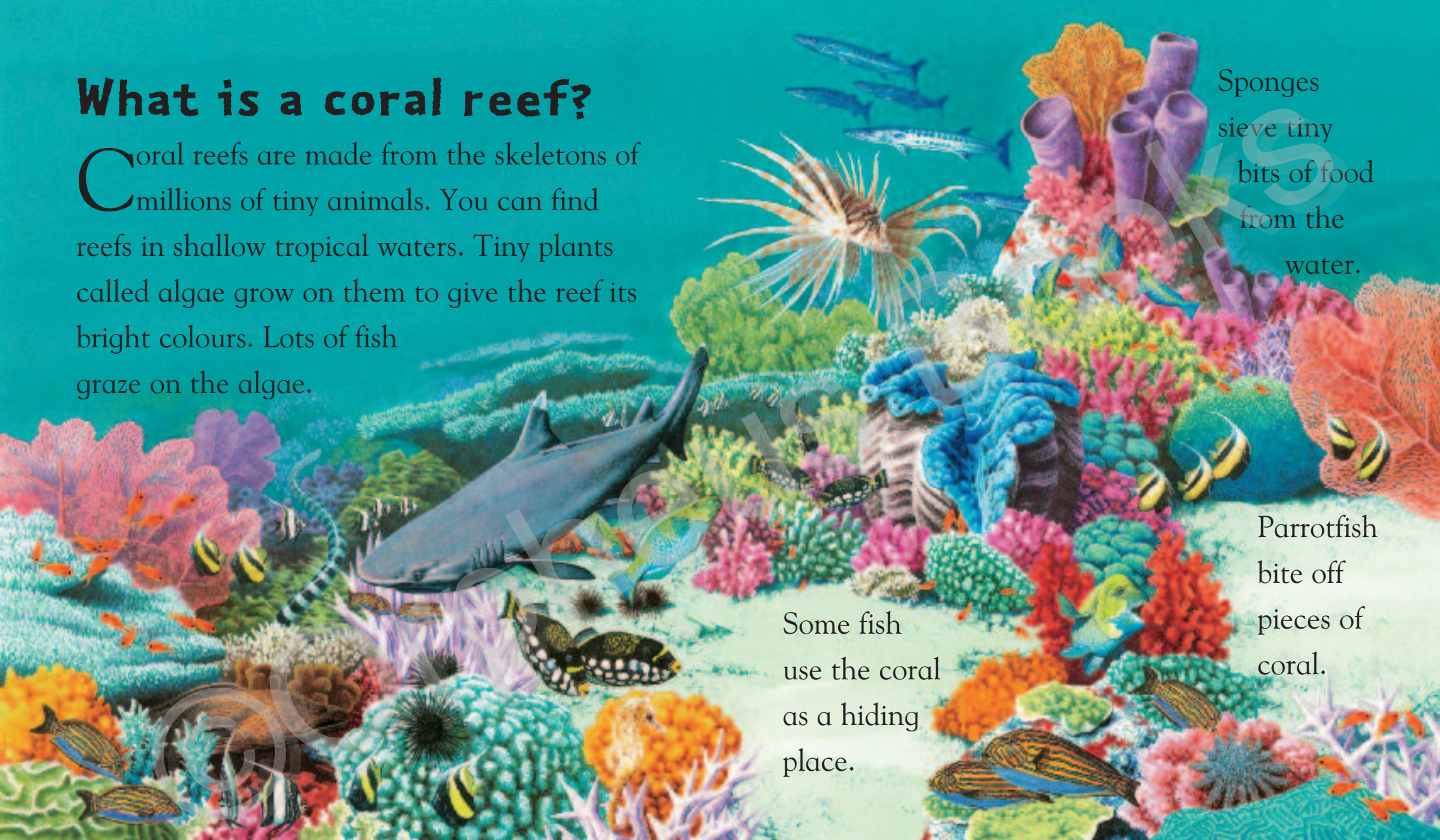
# What is a coral reef?

Coral reefs are made from the skeletons of millions of tiny animals. You can find reefs in shallow tropical waters. Tiny plants called algae grow on them to give the reef its bright colours. Lots of fish graze on the algae.

Sponges sieve tiny bits of food from the water.

Parrotfish bite off pieces of coral.

Some fish use the coral as a hiding place.



# How do fish defend themselves?

The ocean can be a tough place to live if you're a small fish. But some of us put up a fight. Take this stonefish on the right. If any predator comes too close, it will have to deal with a set of extremely poisonous spines.

A cowfish like me is just as nasty: as well as horns, I've got a hard, boxy, poisonous skin.

