



SEAHORSE SPOTLIGHT



THE BASICS

Seahorses are fish that wear bony plates as **armour** and swim upright. Worldwide there are **36 species** of seahorse, two in the UK.

They can grow to a **max of 35 cm**, BUT pygmy seahorses are smaller than your thumbnail.

Genus: Hippocampus (The horse sea monster in Ancient Greek)

LIFESTYLE

They're masters of disguise, **camouflaging** into seagrass, coral, mangroves and estuaries, with their curly tails acting as **anchors**.

Seahorse '**hold**' tails when they're courting, then the dad carries the babies in a **brood pouch** like a kangaroo. Once the tiny seahorses are ready, the dad gives birth.



WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

Using their dorsal fins to swim makes them really awful swimmers. The **slowest** moving fish in the WORLD is a dwarf seahorse with a top speed of 1.5 metres per hour.

They can also move their **eyes individually!**

MUST KNOW

Used in **chinese medicine**, but there's no evidence that they help!

Seahorses eat **30 to 50 times a day**. They suck up little **plankton** and **crustaceans** like a hoover, but with no stomachs their dinner goes nearly straight through!



Check out our other
seahores activities!

