

Rattail



Deep, Deep Down

Cutthroat Eel



Deep, Deep Down

Crinoids



Deep, Deep Down

Snailfish



Deep, Deep Down

Amphipods



Deep, Deep Down

Sea Cucumbers



Deep, Deep Down

Xenophyophores



Deep, Deep Down

Vampire Squid



Deep, Deep Down

Seadevil Anglerfish



Deep, Deep Down

Crinoids

Depth:

25,000 feet (7,620 meters)

Length:

14 inches (36 centimeters)

Superpower:

Crinoids are super smart, even without a brain! They found a way to eat without having to chase after their meals. A sticky mucus on their arms traps small particles from the seawater and they slide the food into their mouth.

Deep, Deep Down: The Secret Underwater Poetry of the Mariana Trench
by Lydia Lukidis, illustrated by Juan Calle



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Cutthroat Eel

Depth:

23,000 feet (7,010 meters)

Length:

39 inches (99 centimeters)

Superpower:

And the award for best swimmer goes to...cutthroat eels! They glide forward and backward with ease. Plus, they move their long bodies slowly so they don't need as much energy and can survive with little food.

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Rattail

Depth:

21,000 feet (6,401 meters)

Length:

31 inches (79 centimeters)

Superpower:

No food for weeks? No problem! Rattails have rich, fatty livers that help them survive when they can't find enough food. Similar species can survive a whopping two hundred days without eating.

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Sea Cucumbers

Depth:

36,037 feet (10,984 meters)

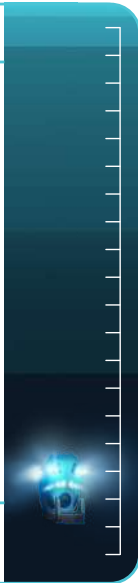
Length:

3 inches (8 centimeters)

Superpower:

Sea cucumbers are super resourceful! They have no eyes, no head, no heart, and no lungs yet adapt to the icy cold of the trench. They hang low on the ocean floor, gobbling up mud and sand, taking in the vitamins and pooping out the rest.

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Amphipods

Depth:

31,000 feet (9,449 meters)

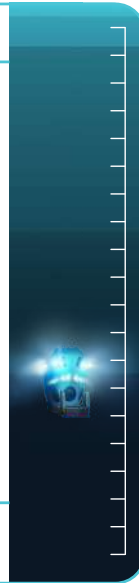
Length:

up to 1 inch (3 centimeters)

Superpower:

Amphipods are awesome scavengers! They survive by chowing down on "marine snow"—tiny particles of algae, bacteria, and dead plants that sink down to the trench. They also love feasting on the bodies of dead animals that float down.

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Snailfish

Depth:

27,000 feet (8,230 meters)

Length:

7 inches (18 centimeters)

Superpower:

Snailfish contain tons of TMAO! What's that? This special substance protects fish from high pressure, making sure their bodies aren't crushed. Snailfish can swim deeper than any other fish in the world.

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Seadevil Anglerfish

Depth:

6,000 feet (1,828 meters)

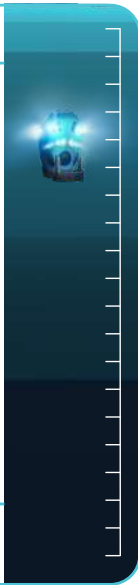
Length:

males: 12 inches (30 cm),
females: 2.5 feet (76 cm)

Superpower:

Seadevil anglerfish are sneaky! The females have an organ that dangles in front of their mouth like a fishing pole. The tip glows brightly because of a phenomenon called bioluminescence and can easily attract victims.

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Vampire Squid

Depth:

3,000 feet (914 meters)

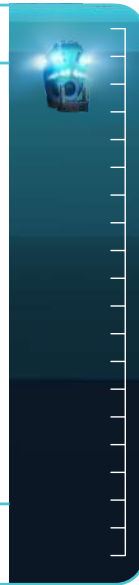
Length:

12 inches (30 cm)

Superpower:

Vampire squid can become invisible! Their gelatinous bodies are coated with light-producing organs that can turn on or off. When these organs are off, vampire squid are completely invisible in dark waters.

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Xenophyophores

Depth:

36,037 feet (10,984 meters)

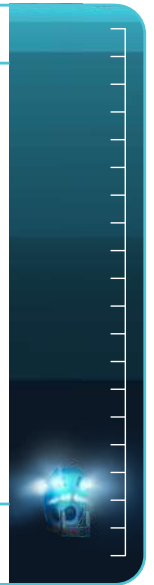
Length:

4 inches (10 centimeters)

Superpower:

Xenophyophores are master builders! They build their shell that acts as their home with bits of dirt, dead animals, rocks, and minerals stuck together with a cement-like glue that contains their poop.

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