

Read the story, and then try the puzzle. To help you, we have underlined the answers to the crossword puzzle clues in the story – but you will need to match the correct word with each clue!



BIG NEWS



THE GLOW IN THE DARK SHARKS

It's thought the sharks glow to protect themselves from attack from below



SCIENTISTS have discovered that three species of deep-water shark can glow in the dark – including the largest known luminous vertebrate.

It's well known that some fish can produce their own light, but marine biologists working near New Zealand were the first to discover that the kitefin shark, blackbelly lanternshark and southern lanternshark were also bioluminescent (able to glow in the dark).

The researchers, from Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium and New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, were most surprised to find that the kitefin shark was luminous, as it can reach sizes of 180cm – making it the largest known luminous vertebrate (creatures with spines).

Seen from below in the dark ocean, fish are silhouetted against the surface of the water. It's thought the sharks glow from below as camouflage to protect them from attack.

DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD!



Sayaka Mitoh

SCIENTISTS in Japan have discovered that certain types of sea slug have the ability to remove their head and grow a whole new body!

The incredible talent belongs to two species of sacoglossan sea slug. Researchers at Nara Women's University were shocked at what they saw. Sayaka Mitoh said: "We were surprised to see the head moving just after autotomy."

Autotomy is when a creature can lose part of its body. The most well-known examples are probably the lizards that can 'drop' their tail if threatened, then grow one back later.

That's pretty amazing in itself, but the sea slug's ability is on another level. Once removed, the head can move around on its own. Within a few weeks, it can grow a whole new body, complete with heart and other internal organs.

It's not known why the slugs detach their heads from their body. One reason could be a way of removing a parasite (something harmful that lives on or inside something else).

The sea slugs' other trick is to fuel themselves from the sun, just like plants do, by using bits of algae that they eat.

ACROSS

- 2) Materials that blend in with the surroundings (noun 10)
- 6) When a creature removes part of its body (verb 8)
- 7) Body parts with specific functions (noun 6)
- 8) Shown as a dark shape or outline against a brighter background (verb 11)

DOWN

- 1) An animal with a backbone or spinal column (noun 10)
- 3) Giving off light; softly bright or radiant (adjective 8)
- 4) To remove (verb 6)
- 5) A shell-less marine invertebrate (noun 3,4)

