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Young times

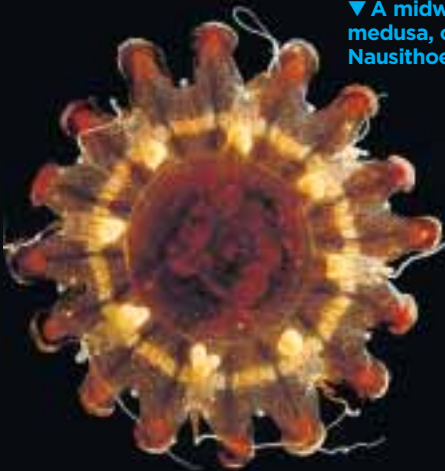
A tricky one to fathom

Scientists have found 230,000 species of sealife — but there are many more we don't know about yet

According to the old saying, there are plenty more fish in the sea. Well, a group of scientists is hoping to find out exactly how many there are, with a massive count of all the types of fish, plants, crabs and other life in the oceans.

So far, biologists at the Census of Marine Life have counted 230,000 sea creatures that we already know about, as well as discovering 5,600 completely new species. That is so many that if you read out one every second, it would take three days to get through the list. Some of them are shown here. But, because it is so hard to explore the depths of the oceans, scientists think that there are perhaps a million more species yet to be found.

▼ A midwater medusa, or *Nausithoe* sp



▲ A jellyfish, also known as *aequorea macrodactyla*



▲ *Megaleledone setebos*, the Antarctic ancestor of deep-sea octopuses



The scientists have uncovered some interesting facts, including the discovery that many octopuses today come from a group that lived in the Southern Ocean off Antarctica. They left those waters 30 million years ago, following salty underwater currents that contained lots of food but went deep into the sea. Because they settled in the dark ocean depths, where there is no light, many evolved to lose the ink sacs that squirt black ink into the face of predators — because there is no need for them if other creatures cannot see.

daily dingbat

Which word or phrase is this? Say what you see.



Yesterday's answer Too hot to handle

riddle

What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment and never in a thousand years?

puzzle of the day

code

If TOAD is 1234 and FROG is 5627, how quickly can you work out these other reptiles? You should identify more letters as you go along.

- 1 3 8 8 9 7 3 1 2 6
- 2 10 6 2 10 2 4 9 8 11
- 3 1 2 6 1 2 9 12 11
- 4 1 11 6 6 3 13 9 14
- 5 9 7 15 3 14 3
- 6 10 16 3 17 11 8 11 2 14



Yesterday's answer Kate Humble



ROTHKO

Mark Rothko Mural for End Wall (Untitled) [Seagram Mural] 1959. National Gallery of Art, Washington. Gift of The Mark Rothko Foundation, Inc.

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