

Passage 7 Main Idea and Details

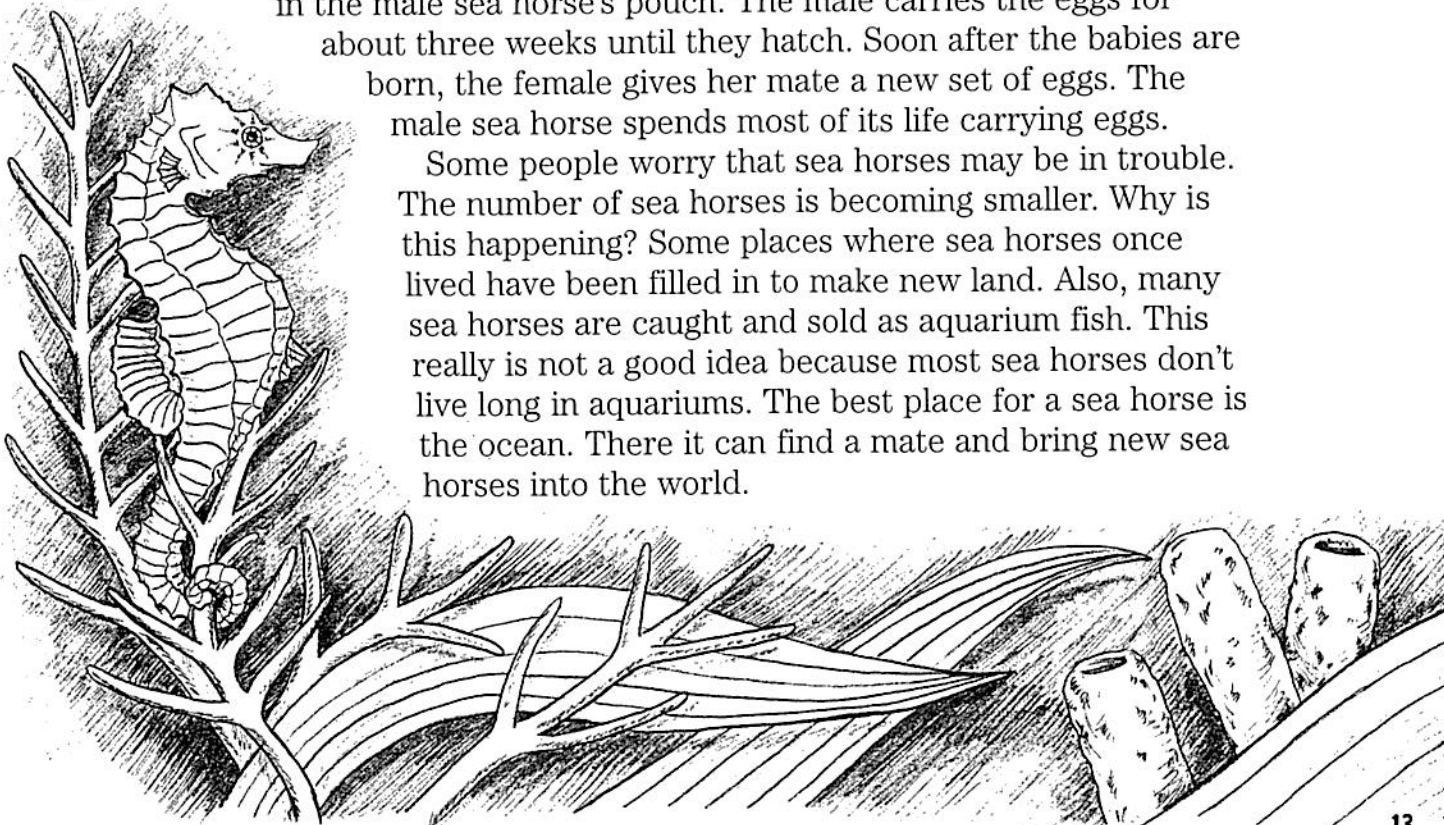
A Fascinating Fish

How did the sea horse get its name? It's not hard to guess. The top half of this fish looks like a small horse. But looking at the sea horse's long, curled tail, you might think "sea monkey" is a more accurate name. Then there's the sea horse's pouch, which is used for carrying eggs until they hatch. "Sea kangaroo" might also be an appropriate name for this fish.

Sea horses live in warm ocean waters all over the world. There are 32 different kinds of sea horses. They range in size from one inch long to about one foot long. Because their fins are small, sea horses swim extremely slowly. They keep safe from other fish by hiding in plants and grasses that grow beneath the sea. They can also change colors to blend in with their surroundings. A sea horse remains in one place for hours at a time by winding its tail around a plant. It feeds on live food, such as tiny shrimp, that happen to swim by. A sea horse has no teeth, so it swallows the shrimp whole. For a fish that doesn't move around much, the sea horse eats a lot. In just one day, a sea horse can eat 3,000 shrimp!

A sea horse keeps the same mate for its whole life, unlike most kinds of fish. And it's the male sea horse, not the female, which gives birth to baby sea horses. How does this happen? Baby sea horses start out as eggs, which come from the female's body. But the female places the eggs in the male sea horse's pouch. The male carries the eggs for about three weeks until they hatch. Soon after the babies are born, the female gives her mate a new set of eggs. The male sea horse spends most of its life carrying eggs.

Some people worry that sea horses may be in trouble. The number of sea horses is becoming smaller. Why is this happening? Some places where sea horses once lived have been filled in to make new land. Also, many sea horses are caught and sold as aquarium fish. This really is not a good idea because most sea horses don't live long in aquariums. The best place for a sea horse is the ocean. There it can find a mate and bring new sea horses into the world.



1. What is this article mostly about?

- Ⓐ animal names
- Ⓑ sea horses
- Ⓒ aquariums
- Ⓓ oceans

2. How does a sea horse keep safe from other fish?

3. What does a female sea horse do with her eggs?

4. Why is the number of sea horses becoming smaller?

5. Which is another good title for this article?

- Ⓐ "Animal Fathers"
- Ⓑ "Kinds of Horses"
- Ⓒ "How Fish Grow"
- Ⓓ "All About Sea Horses"

