

seahorse



lapbook

Seahorse Lapbook

Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata (has a backbone)

Class: Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)

Order: Syngnathiformes (conjoined jaws)

Family: Syngnathidae (fused jaw, elongated snout, bony armor-covered bodies)

Subfamily: Syngnathinae (pipefish)

Genus: Hippocampus (sea horse)

Phycodurus (leafy sea dragon)

Phyllopteryx (weedy sea dragon)

The Latin name for seahorse is Hippocampus which means "Horse Caterpillar" or "Horse Monster".

Size

Seahorses range in size from 1/3 inch (about the size of a grain of rice) to 14 inches (about the size of a hammer).

Complete smallest/largest shutterfold book.

Where Can Seahorses Be Found?

Seahorses are found in all of the world's oceans except near the North and South Poles. It's too cold for them there. Seahorses do not like very deep water. They live near the coasts where it is shallow.

Complete map activity page.

Which Habitats Do Seahorses Live In?

Seagrass beds

Coral reefs

Mangrove forests

Complete habitats matchbook.

Anatomy

Coronet: the little crown on top of the seahorse's head.

Eyes: A seahorse has two eyes. It can move each eye independently of each other. This means that one eye can look left, while the other eye looks right.

Snout: A hollow tube like a straw that a seahorse uses to suck up food.

Fins: A seahorse has two pectoral fins that look like little wings on each side of its neck. On a seahorse's back is the dorsal fin. These three fins help the seahorse swim.

Gills: A seahorse's gills are located just above the pectoral fins. They help the seahorse get oxygen from the water so it can breathe.

Tail: A seahorse uses its tail mainly to hang on to a piece of seagrass, coral, or even another seahorse.

Outer skeleton: Instead of scales like other fish, a seahorse's body is covered with bony plates that are arranged in rings with tiny knobs marking the spot where they join together.

How Fast Can They Swim?

Seahorses are slow but skilled swimmers. A seahorse would take ninety seconds to cross 12 inches of water. But, it can steer with great control. It can easily go up and down as well as backwards and forwards.

Complete "how fast . . ." matchbook.

What Do They Eat?

Seahorses wrap their tails around a holdfast and wait for their main food source, tiny sea animals called zooplankton, to float by.

Seahorses do not have a stomach. The food they eat passes through them very quickly. Because of this, seahorses have to eat constantly. If a seahorse goes without food for even a few hours, it might starve to death.

Complete "What do they eat?" simple fold.

Seahorse Lifecycle

A male and female seahorse will spend a lot of time together before they mate. They'll often curl their tails around one holdfast or around each other and hold on for hours.

When they're ready to mate, the female puts her eggs in the male's brood pouch on the front of his body. The male then fertilizes those eggs within the pouch.

Inside the brood pouch, the fertilized eggs developed into baby seahorses in 2-6 weeks. During this time, the male slowly lets seawater into the brood pouch so the growing babies can get used to it before they have to swim in it.

When the male gives birth, he squirts the babies out of his brood pouch. This can take hours.

Depending on the species, a male seahorse can give birth to 5-1,000 babies.

Baby seahorses start eating soon after they are born. Their snouts are extremely small so they usually eat zooplankton that is not full-grown. The mother and father do not care or help the babies. Because of this, many baby seahorses are eaten by larger fish, crabs, or seabirds.

Some small seahorses take only about three months to grow up while larger species can take six to twelve months to fully mature.

Scientists are exactly sure how long seahorses can live. They think that smaller species can live a year and a half while larger ones may live four to five years.

Complete the flap book about eggs and babies.

Relatives

- Sea Dragons
- Pipefishes

Complete relatives simple fold.

Territory

Seahorses don't travel far. Most male seahorses have a home range about the size of a desk. Female seahorses roam a larger area, about the size of a classroom.

Complete How far do seahorses travel? matchbook.

How Do Seahorses Protect Themselves?

- They have hard bones and spines. When sea creatures try to eat seahorses, they usually spit them back out because they're too crunchy.
- They blend into the background. Some animals don't mind a little extra crunch. To keep from getting eaten by these predators, seahorses can change color to camouflage themselves.

Complete seahorse defenses accordion fold.

Predators

- Crabs
- Skates (make sure your student understands what kind of animal this is; look for images on an internet search or find a book to read about skates)
- Sea turtles
- Humans
- Other fish

Complete predators fan.

Are Seahorses Endangered?

Many seahorse species are endangered.

- They can lose their homes. Human activity harms or destroys seahorse habitat.
- They are used in medicines, made into souvenirs, or sold as pets. Fishermen catch about 20 million seahorses a year.

What Can You Do to Save Seahorses?

- Protect seahorse habitat.

- Set aside safe places for seahorses.
- Educate doctors in Asia so they won't use seahorses as medicine
- Stop buying seahorses
- Find new jobs for seahorse fishermen

Complete ways to help seahorses simple fold.

Fun Facts

- If a seahorse wants to move up or down like an elevator, it simply rolls or unrolls its tail.
- Seahorses have no teeth
- Baby seahorses are called frys or ponies.
- There are 32 different species of seahorses!

Add any fun facts you find to the fun fact file folder books!

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largest seahorse

Directions: Cut out rectangle as one piece. Fold on dotted lines. You should have a book that opens like the “shutters” on a window.

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smallest seahorse

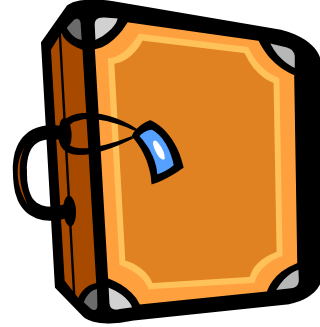


Cut on solid lines. Fold on dotted lines (matchbook style).

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seahorses travel?

how far do



habitats



seahorse swim?

how fast can a



seahorse



relatives

pipe fish

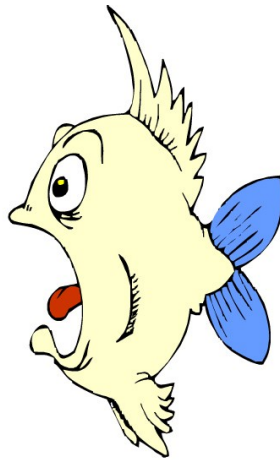
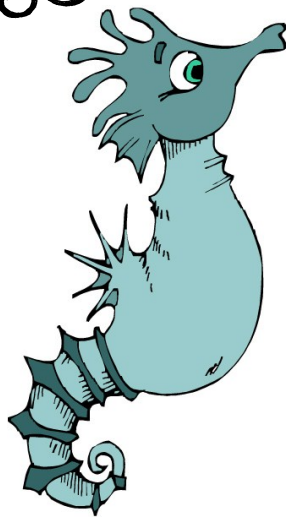


sea dragon



Cut on solid lines. Fold, like an accordion, using the dotted lines as your guide. Paste the back of the last piece to your lapbook.


seahorse



defenses

A series of horizontal lines for writing, divided into two sections by a central dotted line. Each section contains five solid lines and one dotted line, creating a total of ten writing rows.

Directions: PRINT ON CARDSTOCK. Cut out pieces. Write one predator on each piece. Stack together with cover on top and secure with a brad.

 <p>predators</p>	

Who carries
the eggs?

How long
does it take
the eggs to
develop?

How many
babies are
born at once?

Who cares for
the babies?

How long does
it take them to
grow up?

Cut on solid lines. Fold on
dotted. Record answers
under the flaps.

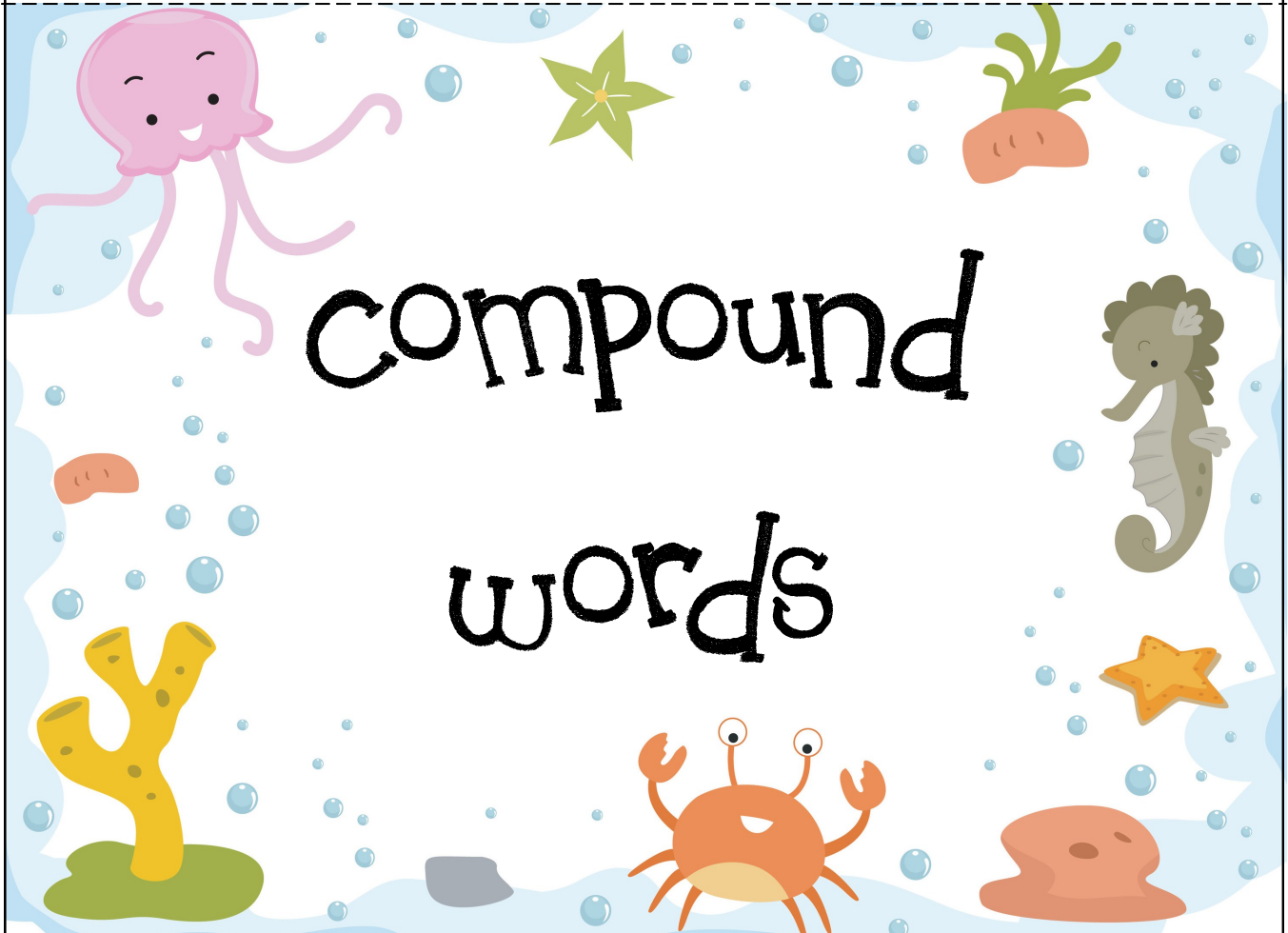
sea	boat
sea	ray
sea	wreck
jelly	shore
sting	horse
sail	gull
ship	fish
sword	shell
sea	fish

Directions: The word seahorse is a compound word. It is made of two separate words: sea and horse. Discuss compound words with your student. What other compound words can you think of?

Cut words apart. The first part of each compound word is blue, and the second part of each compound word is orange.

Match them up to make compound words and paste the words into the book on the next page.

compound words



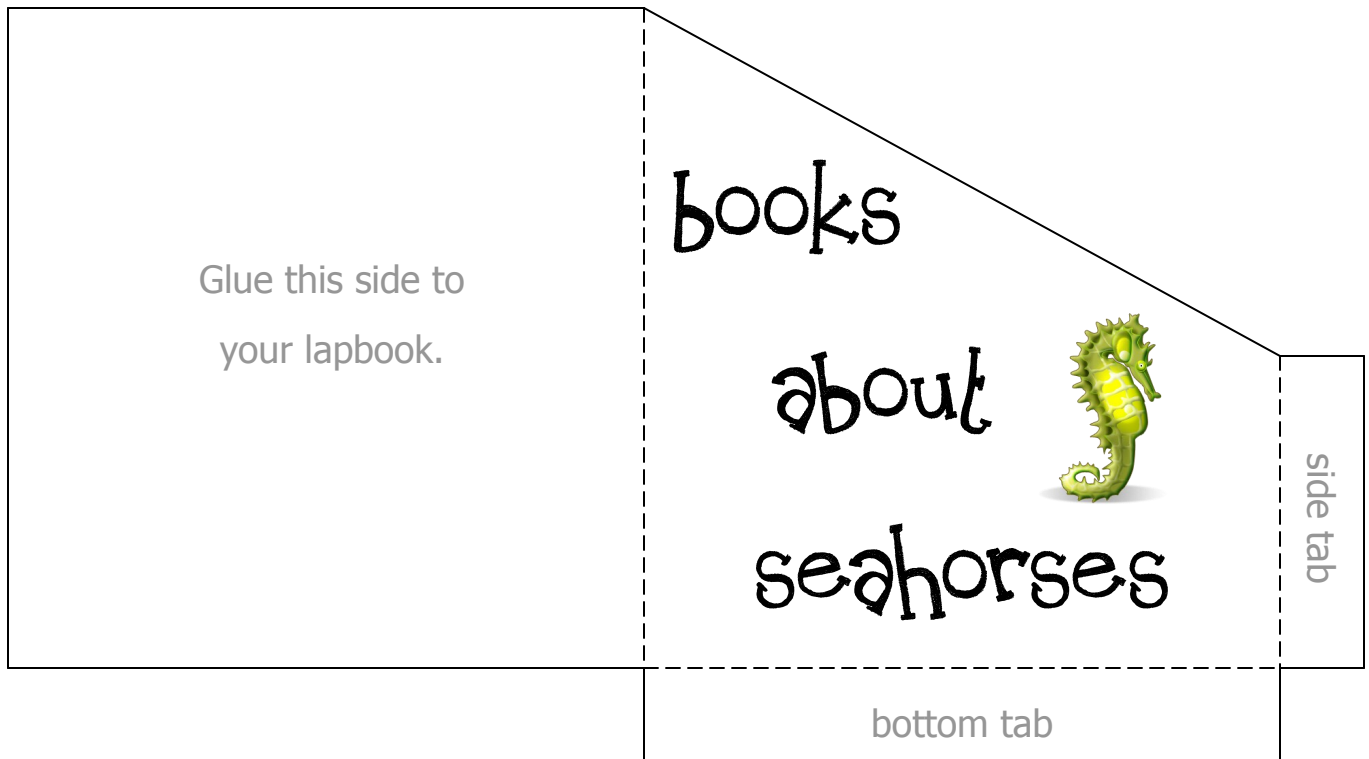
	<p>anatomy</p> 
coronet	
fins	outer skeleton







	eyes
gills	
snout	
	tail



















Cut out rectangles. Stack together
smallest to largest with cover on top.
Staple at the top.

Directions: Cut out the pocket as one piece. Fold in half on the dotted line. Fold bottom tab and glue down. Fold side tab and glue down.

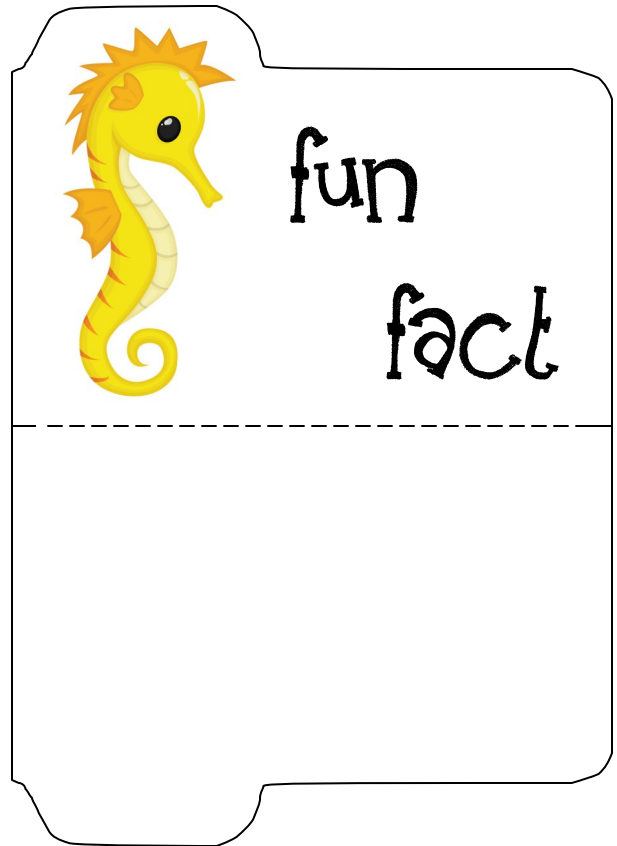
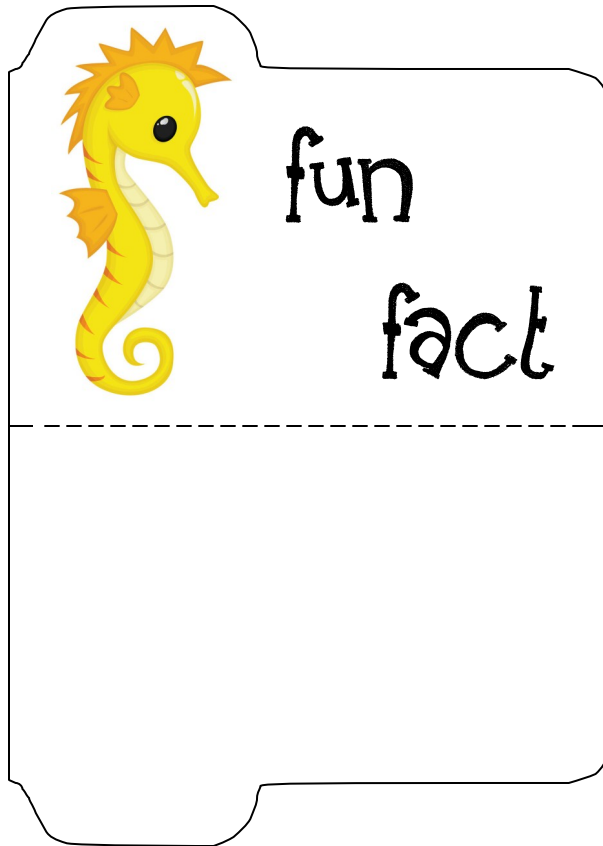
As your student reads books about seahorses, he should complete report cards for them.



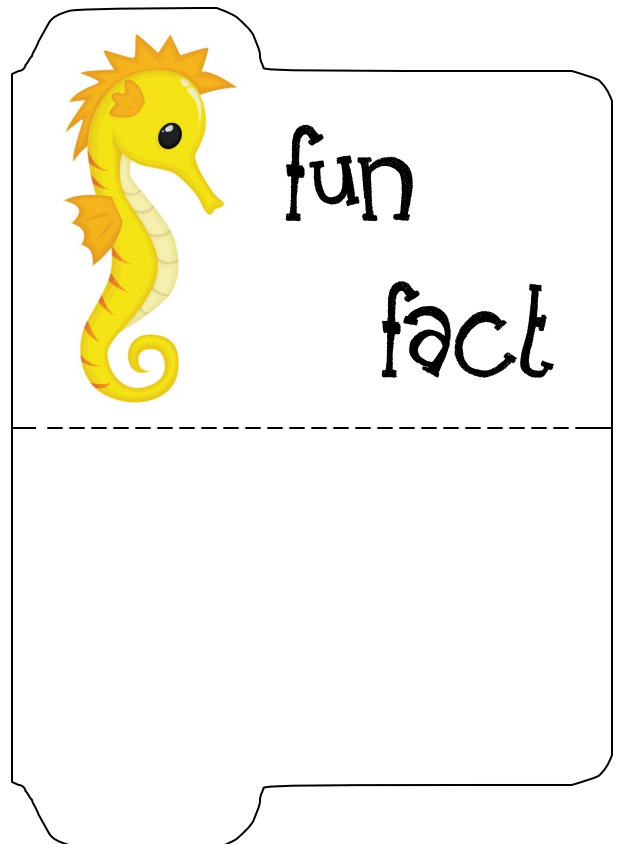
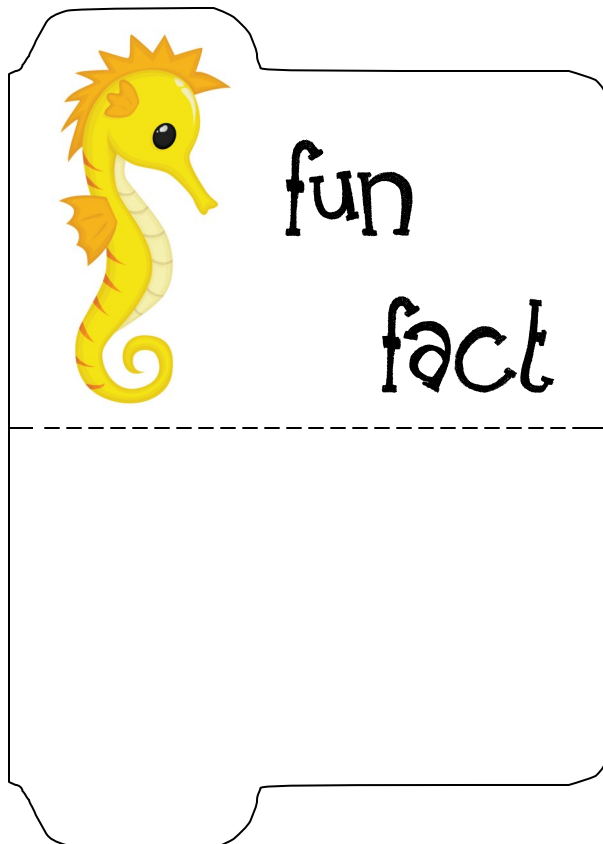
Book Title	Book Title
Author	Author
Response (color one)    I loved it! It was okay. I didn't like it.	Response (color one)    I loved it! It was okay. I didn't like it.

Book Title	Book Title
Author	Author
Response (color one)  I loved it!  It was okay.  I didn't like it.	Response (color one)  I loved it!  It was okay.  I didn't like it.
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Author	Author
Response (color one)  I loved it!  It was okay.  I didn't like it.	Response (color one)  I loved it!  It was okay.  I didn't like it.

Cut books out on solid lines; fold on dotted lines.



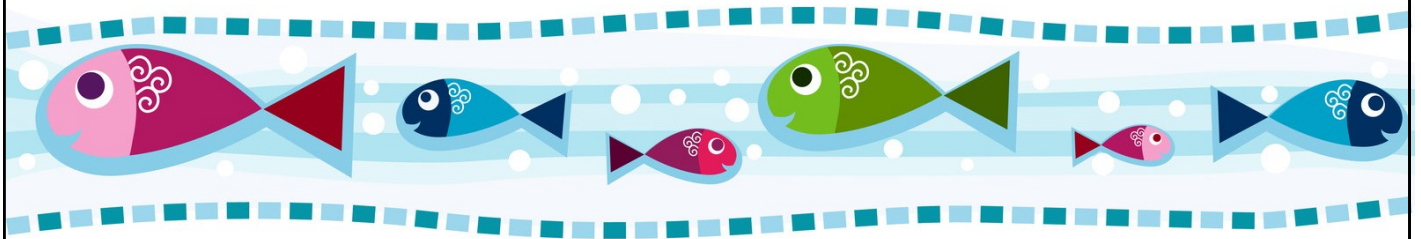
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Label the oceans of the world.

Color the areas on the map where seahorses would probably be found.

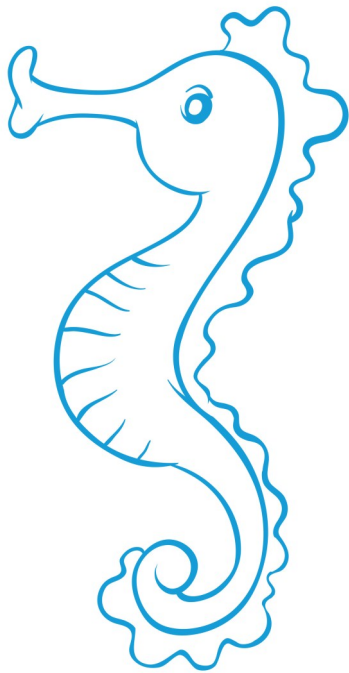
where in the world would
you find seahorses?



Cut books out on solid lines; fold on dotted lines.

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what
do
they
eat?



ways
to
help

seahorses