

Key Stage 1 – 2: Hunters

At Blue Reef we have a wide range of animals from small invertebrates at the lower end of the food chain, to predators at the top. During this tour, students/pupils will meet a range of predators from starfish to sharks and discover the different techniques these hunters have developed to remain successful.

Starfish

Armed with a deadly array of biological weapons, starfish are one of the marine world's most unusual predators. Among their more extraordinary methods of attack is to 'throw up' their stomach and use them to digest their prey from the inside, turning their victim's internal organs into a soup before sucking it back in again.

Anemones

Although they resemble delicate marine flowers, anemones are actually fierce predators, capable of paralysing or even killing fish with their toxic tentacles. Youngsters are always particularly interested to find out how 'Nemo' the clownfish manages to survive living among these notorious fish hunters.

Corals

Coral reefs may be among the natural world's most beautiful inhabitants but they too possess an arsenal of complex weapons including long-range missile stinging cells and specially adapted tentacles for close-range combat. Find out how these apparently fragile creatures survive the fierce battle for survival.

Conger eels

These fearsome-looking fish have a reputation for being highly aggressive, with tales of unwary divers having their fingers bitten off by these 'evil eels'. However, in reality congers are actually one of the oceans' more timid creatures. Poor eyesight means they rely on vibration senses to help detect their prey.

Seahorses

The magical seahorse may be an unlikely hunter, however these graceful fish are capable of instantly liquidising their prey. They create such a strong suction force their food is pulped so effectively that they have no need for a stomach to break it down any further.

Lionfish

Like their terrestrial namesakes lionfish are highly effective predators. Discover the hunting techniques of one of the most poisonous fish in the

world. These predators possess a lethal armoury of toxic spines running along their backs which they use to stun or kill their prey before swallowing it.

Octopus

Octopus are among the aquatic world's most intelligent inhabitants and have evolved a wide range of hunting techniques. At the centre of their apparently soft bodies is a razor sharp beak which they use to inject chemical poison into their prey, digesting them with biological weapons before ingesting the soup.

Sharks

Discover the truth about the world's ultimate marine predator. Learn about the 'super' senses which have enabled these magnificent fish to remain at the top of the food chain and come face to face with a selection of the estimated 350 different types of shark species living in the world's oceans today .