



For more of these fun fact sheets, grab a copy of the latest issue of Lovatts Puzzle Fun for Kids! Available from all good newsagents or by subscription from the website.

## Tropical fish of the Great Barrier Reef

**Did you know there are 1500 different types of fish swimming around Queensland's Great Barrier Reef?**

**Everyone loved Nemo the clownfish in Finding Nemo. Well here is some information about clownfish and other tropical fish.**

**White-tipped Reef Shark**



This is one of the most common sharks found in the shallow water of the coral reef. These sharks have a grey body with white tips on the upper dorsal fin and upper caudal fin. The White-tipped Reef Shark, which grows to about 140 to 160 cms long, is not aggressive. They are nocturnal creatures resting by day in small groups and hunting at night. They eat crabs, octopuses and fish.

### Clownfish



Clownfish have lived around sea anemones in coral reefs for thousands of years. While the anemone is poisonous to other fish the clownfish is safe and cleans the anemone as well as scaring predators away. These cute creatures are from 5 to 13cms long. They have white stripes with black edges on their bright orange bodies.

### Stonefish



The stonefish is camouflaged to look like a rock, so it's hard to see on the sea bed. In this way it can hide from an enemy and lie in wait for prey. Stonefish are a green-brown colour and have poisonous spikes. If stepped on the stonefish can be deadly.

### Surgeonfish



Surgeonfish, also called Tang, are part of a family of Thorn Tail fish and have a pair of razor sharp spines on their tails. They get their name because these spines are like a surgeon's scalpel. They come in different bright colours such as blue, yellow, grey and white.

### Pufferfish



Also known as blowfish, swellfish or balloonfish there are different types of pufferfish, blue-spotted, black-spotted, starry, ferocious and crowned are just a few. Pufferfish live in cracks in the reef. When one is disturbed it puffs up like a balloon to twice its size by swallowing water or air. Some pufferfish have spines they stick out as well. Puffer fish are very poisonous to eat.

### Blue-spotted Stingray



These amazing creatures have a flat body and live on the bottom of the sea bed. They hide in the sand with just their eyes visible as they wait to catch crabs or shrimps. They are graceful swimmers. They are grey with blue spots, have a white underside and a sting on the end of their long tail.

### Six-line Wrasse



The Six-line Wrasse is a purplish colour with six orange stripes or bands. They have tiny yellow dots on their orange cheeks. Wrasse grow to about 8.5cm in length. Wrasse are known as cleaning centres as they swim into the mouths of larger fish to act like dentists.

### Angelfish



This fish grows to a size of 30-38cms. The young or juvenile fish are black and white but the adults are yellow, blue, black and white. They have powerful beak-like jaws to crush shells and coral.

### Lionfish



These fish live in caves in shallow water. Even though called a lionfish this reef swimmer has zebra-like stripes, which can be red, brown or black. Its fin spikes are venomous and cause pain and swelling.

### Butterflyfish



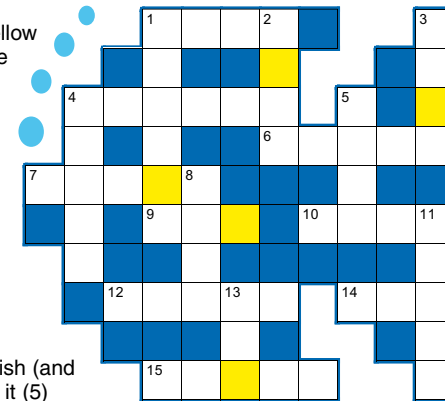
These small brightly coloured fish have patterns in black, white, yellow, red, orange and blue. They have eye spots and bands like those on the wings of butterflies. They feed on coral polyps and sea anemones.

## Crossword

All the answers to the crossword are red in the text

### ACROSS

- Fine white or yellow grains that make up a beach (You can make castles with it) (4)
- Vividly colourful (like a Clownfish's body) (6)
- Large fish that is sometimes dangerous (5)
- You drink this. Fish (and people) swim in it (5)
- Clownfish live amongst ... anemones (3)
- The colour of the sky or a stingray's spots (4)
- A blowfish ... up to twice its size (5)



- Spots on a Butterflyfish look like this part of your face that you see with (3)
- Six-line Wrasse have six orange stripes or ...

### DOWN

- Sharp part of Lionfish that are venomous (6)
- Another word for spots (4)
- A large stone (4)
- Very dark colour (5)
- A Surgeonfish has sharp spines on its ... (A dog wags its) (4)
- Queensland's Great Barrier ... (4)
- A stonefish is camouflaged and can hide from an ... (5)
- Part of a fish. A shark's one can stick out of the water (3)

## Solution

Write the letters from the yellow shaded squares into the spaces above.