



PETRA BARTÍKOVÁ • ZUZANA KURUCOVÁ

Nature at Night

Glow-In-The-Dark





# Deep in the ocean

With a splash, a diver rises from deep in the ocean and breaks the surface. What's it like down there? Are there any lights? This diver could tell you. Thanks to his wetsuit and the aqualung on his back, he discovers something new each time he goes down ...



## Submarine

A submarine can reach where a diver can't. This oval-shaped vessel with a periscope and round windows can travel at great depths. The first submarine was built in 1624, by Dutchman Cornelius Drebbel.

## Diver

Plop! Highly proficient divers can go deep into the undersea world without an aqualung; they simply hold their breath. But in the sea's twilight zone, none of them would manage without a light.

## Jellyfish

We can find luminescent jellyfish of the Aequorea genus on the coasts of North America. Although their luminescence is more subdued during the day, at night they shine for all they are worth, to scare off potential foes.



## Angler

With its big mouth and sharp teeth, the fearsome-looking angler is one of the most striking deep-ocean creatures. And just imagine: it lures its unsuspecting victims into its jaws using a glowing ball that grows on its head!

## Seahorse

How cute! It's actually a fish, although it doesn't much look like one. What's special about it? Well, it swims with its head held up straight, not out in front. And, like many creatures of the sea, it is luminescent.





## Deep in the woods

*It's getting dark and we can barely see a foot in front of us. Here and there an owl hoots, and leaves are rustling in the treetops. What was that? Quiet! There's something moving in the undergrowth. It's got pointed ears and a bushy tail. Why, of course – it's a fox! Foxes hunt at dusk, and sometimes at night. Like every other beast of prey, their eyes shine in the dark.*

### Fox

Do you know why a fox's eyes shine in the dark? Well, it's because of a light-reflecting surface of pigmented crystals behind the retina.

### Fireflies

In summer, we see them in woodland and at home in the garden. The firefly is one of the most common light-emitting flying insects; its light is greenish rather than yellow. The light is produced by a chemical reaction in the beetle's abdomen.

### Insect larvae

They shine because they are hungry. Larvae of unique species of firefly adorn the ceiling of a cave in Waitomo in New Zealand. They use their appealing light, which in the cave reminds us of the night sky, to attract food. The hungrier they are, the more they shine.

### Rotting tree stump

We see the kind of greenish light emitted by fireflies on a rotting tree stump, too. How is this possible? Luminescence in tree trunks is caused by wood-decaying honey fungus. Why and even whether this is of any use for the tree or itself, scientists are yet to determine.

### Bioluminescent fungus

Its name – *Neonothopanus gardneri* – is long and difficult to pronounce. Its night-time glow is so strong that you can even read by it. Scientists discovered this bioluminescent fungus in the Brazilian rainforest in the middle of the night, when the Moon was shining brightly ...

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# Nature at Night

Written By Petra Bartíková  
Illustrated By Zuzana Kurucová

Humans have been fascinated by light emitted by animals in the wild since time immemorial. The philosophers of Ancient Greece, for instance, were greatly interested in things that could be seen only in the dark. With this book, find out what nature looks like at night. You'll learn about what makes light in the forest, in the sky and underwater, and which animals glow like fungus. You'll discover, too, what Planet Earth looks like at night – including which country glitters like one of Cinderella's golden slippers.

DISCOVER  
the nature at  
night

Playful  
illustrations



Glowing  
pictures

Short poetic  
captions



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