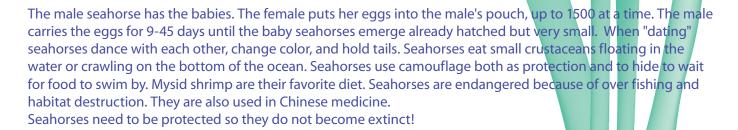
Seahorse Facts

There are fourty-seven species of Seahorses. They are in the genus (group of species) Hippocampus which means "horse sea monster" in Ancient Greek. Seahorses live in shallow tropical warm waters all over the world. They like to hide, so they live in seagrass beds, estuaries and coral reefs.

Only four species live in the Pacific ocean of North and South America. The Dwarf Seahorse lives in the Bahamas. Three kinds live in the Mediterranean Sea: the Long-Snouted Seahorse, the Short-Snouted Seahorse and the Sea Pony.

Seahorses range in size from 1/2 to 14 inches. They are named because they look like a horse. They are bony fish. Instead of scales, they have thin skin stretched over bony rings all over their bodies. Each species has their own number of rings. Seahorses swim upright. They have a flexible neck unlike most fish. Each seahorse has a unique coronet (spikes) on their head.

According to Guinness World Records 2009, the dwarf Seahorse is the slowest moving fish, with a top speed of about 5 feet (150 cm) per hour. They are not good swimmers. They only flutter a dorsal fin and use pectoral fins (behind their eyes) to steer. They have no caudal (tail) fin. They have a tail instead that can grab onto things. They are usually seen hanging onto plants or seaweed with their tails, floating with the ocean waves. They have long snouts that they use to suck up food, and eyes that can each move in different directions at once.



What did you Learn About Seahorses?

What does the group name Hippocampus mean? "horse sea monster"		_
2. How many species of seahorses are there? fourty-seven		_
3. How fast can a seahorse swim? 5 feet (150 cm) per hour		_
4. Which has the babies, the male or female seahores? the male		_
5 Why are seaborses endangered? Overfishing habitat destruction and Chinese r	medicine uses	