TALK ABOUT TEXTS

Deep-Sea Creatures



Written by Sascha Goddard

Deep-Sea Creatures



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macmillan education

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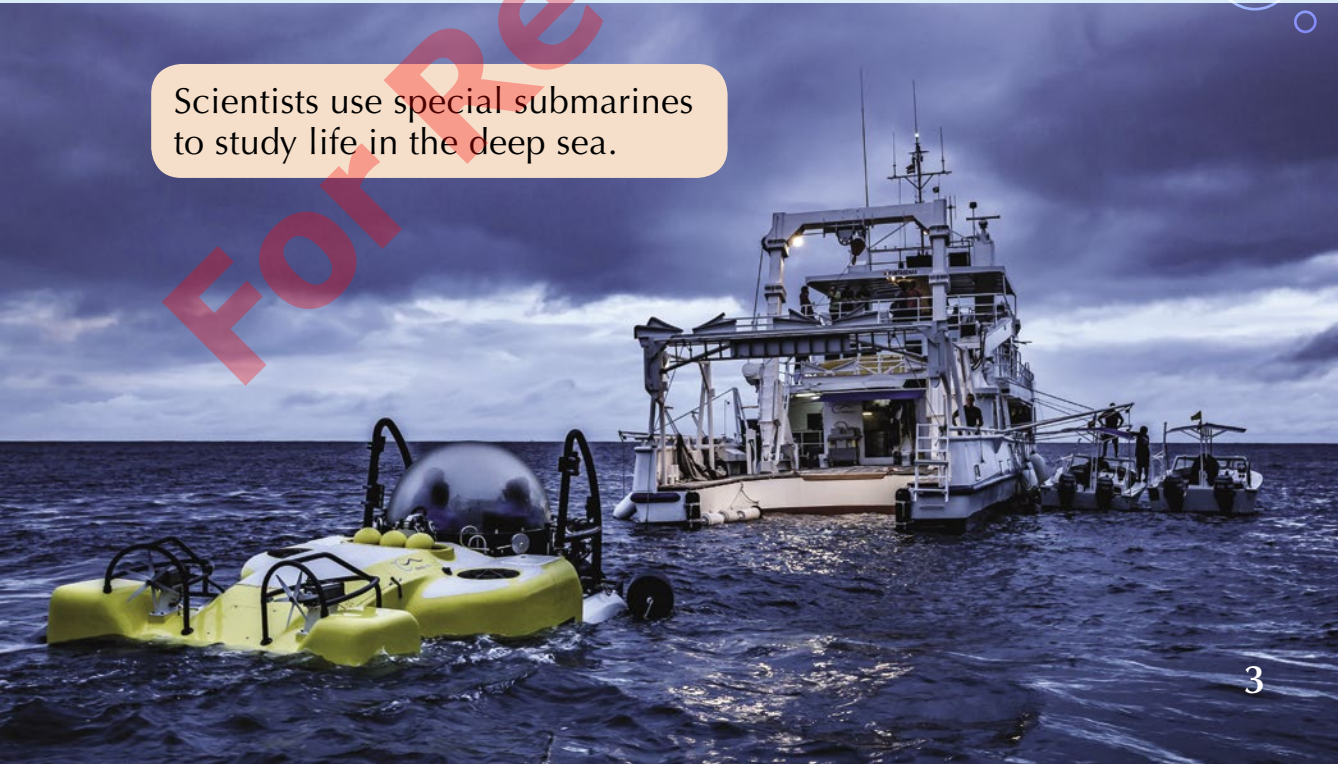
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Strange Creatures of the Deep

There are many strange creatures living in the deep sea. These animals might look odd to us, but they are amazing!

The deep sea is very dark and cold. There is not much food for the animals that live there. A huge amount of water pushes down hard from above.

How are deep-sea creatures able to survive in this environment? They have special body parts to help them. They behave in special ways, too.



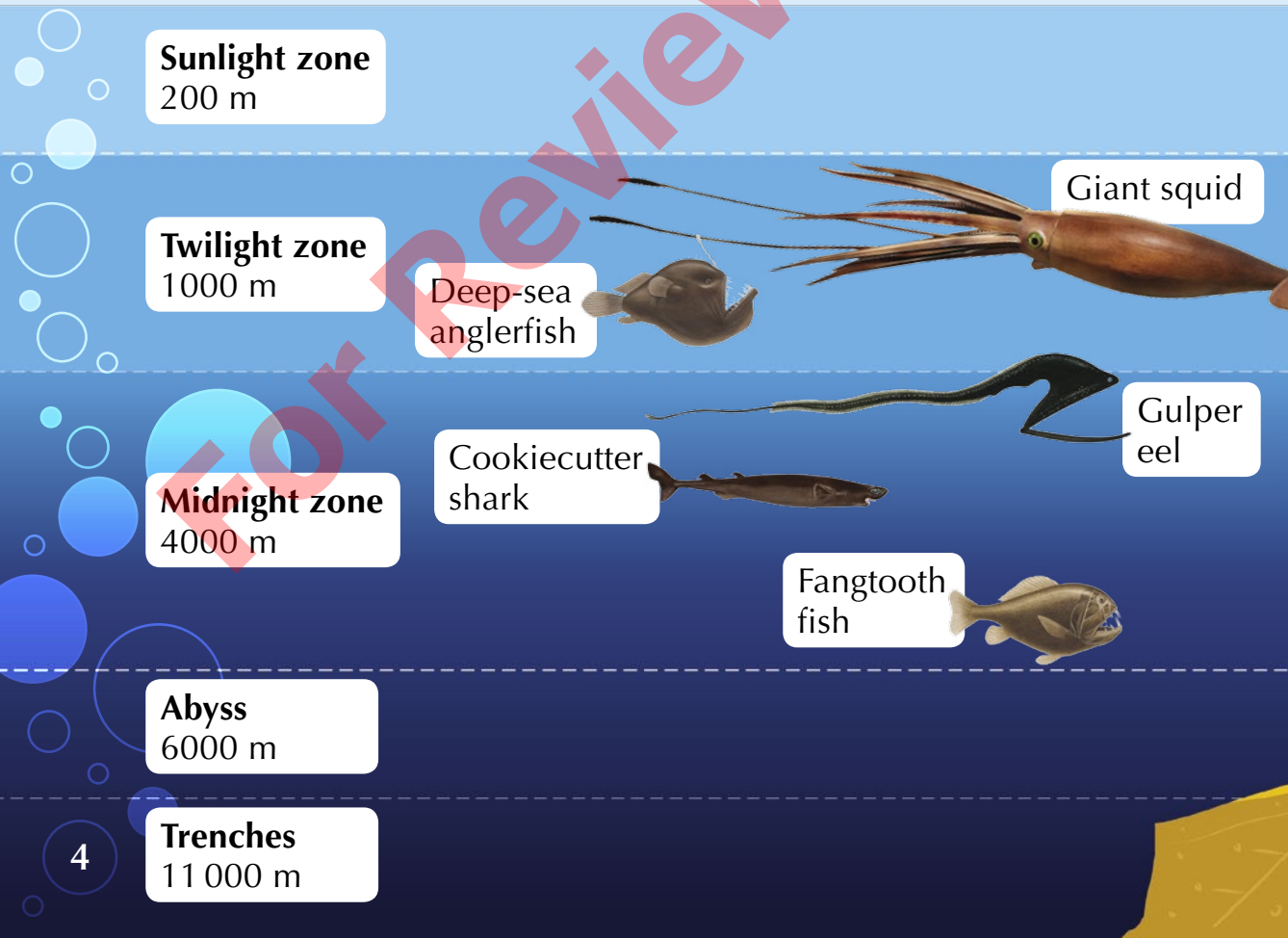
Scientists use special submarines to study life in the deep sea.

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The Zones of the Deep Sea

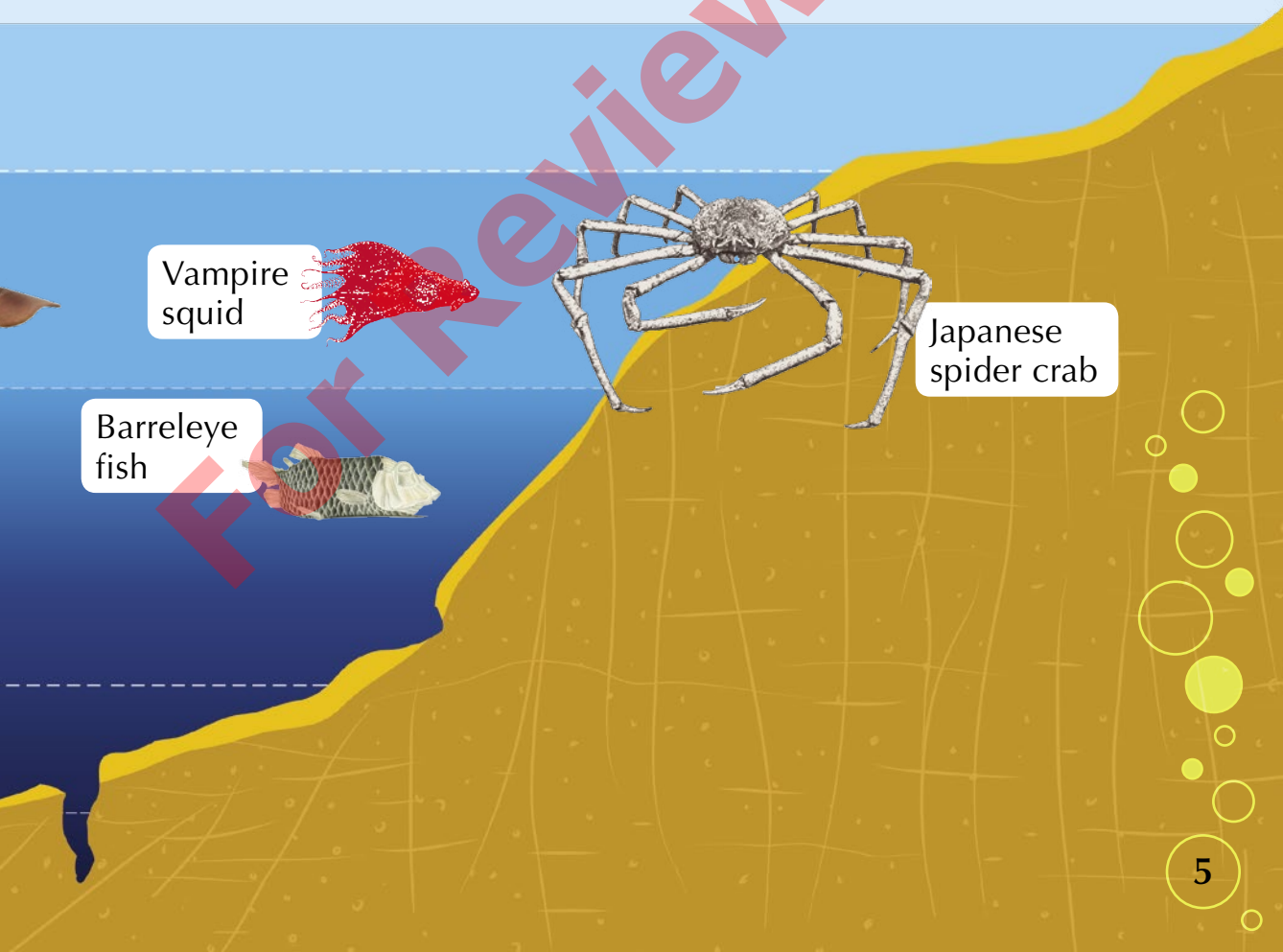
There are five zones, or parts, of the ocean. The sunlight zone is the top zone. The four zones below make up the deep sea. They are:

- the twilight zone
- the midnight zone
- the abyss
- the trenches



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There is some light in the twilight zone, but the other deep-sea zones are as dark as night. The water gets colder as it gets deeper. The **water pressure** gets stronger, too. The pressure is strongest at the bottom of the sea.



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Lighting Up the Dark

There is no light in the deepest zones of the sea. But some animals have glowing lights on their bodies. They use them to attract and catch **prey** and to get away from **predators**. Their lights help them to stay alive in their dark environment.

Deep-Sea Anglerfish

The anglerfish has a backbone that goes over its head. It is like a fishing pole with a light on the end. The anglerfish uses this to catch its prey. It waves the light around in the deep, dark ocean. Smaller creatures come to see what the light is. Then the anglerfish eats them!

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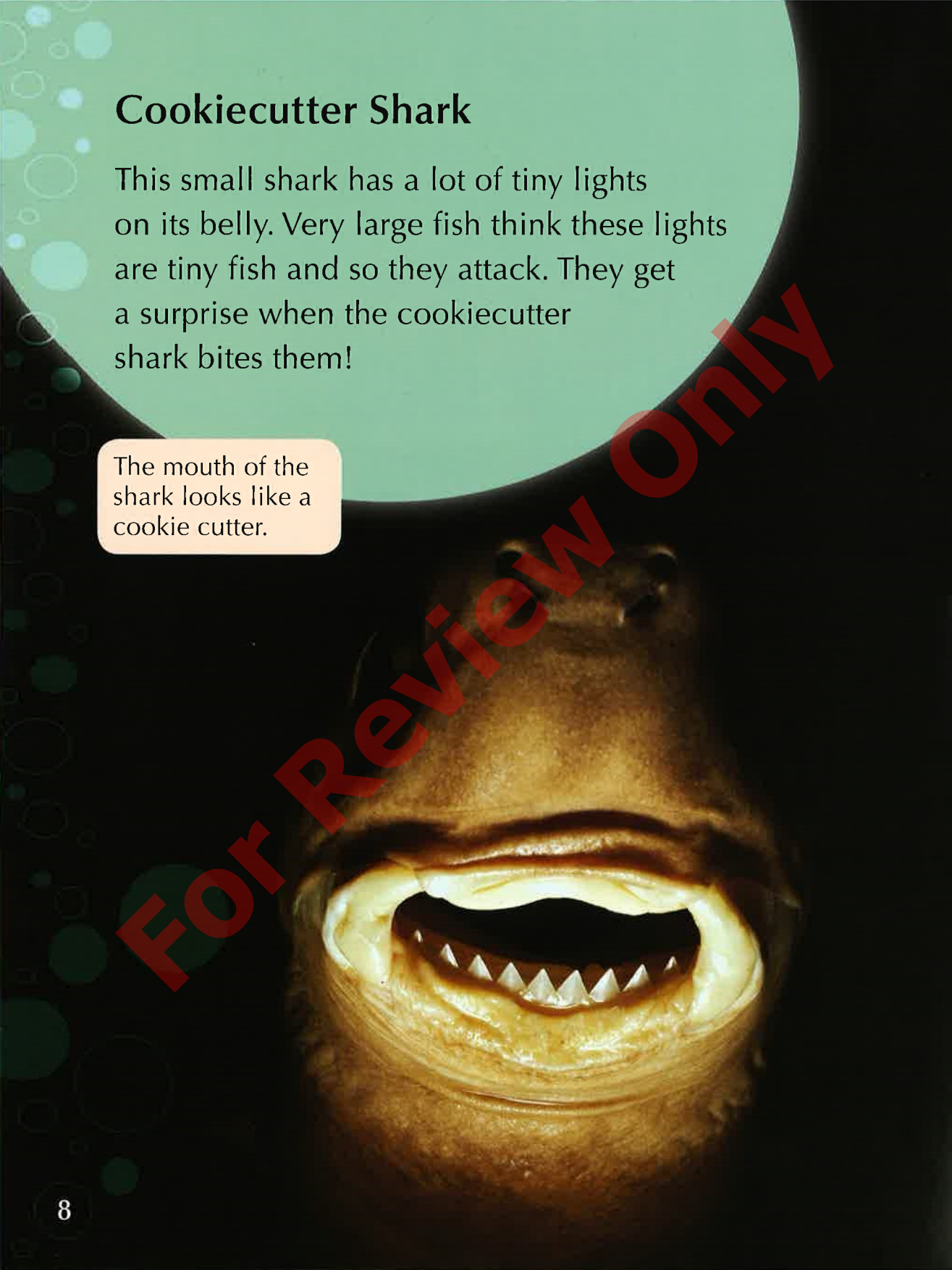
The light on the anglerfish attracts prey to come near its very sharp teeth.

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Cookiecutter Shark

This small shark has a lot of tiny lights on its belly. Very large fish think these lights are tiny fish and so they attack. They get a surprise when the cookiecutter shark bites them!

The mouth of the shark looks like a cookie cutter.



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