

SEAHORSE RELATIVES

How do you compare to your siblings? Parents? Cousins?

In my family, I am most alike my _____.

Do you look the same, talk the same, laugh the same?

List some things you have in common:

Animals have relatives too!

Can you guess which of these fish is the closest cousin of a seahorse?

Butterfly fish



Pipefish



Seahorse



Alewife



Blackfish

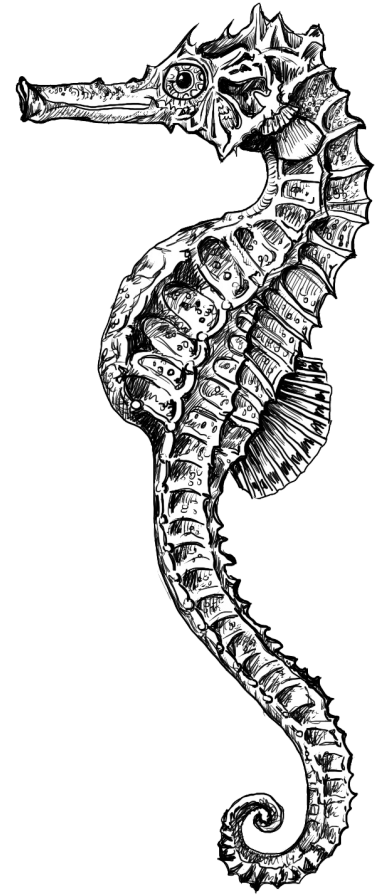
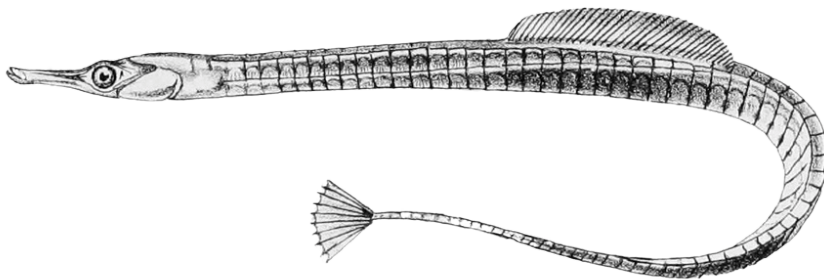


If you guessed, **Pipefish**, you are correct!

Look closely at the head and mouth shape, body shape, fins, skin, eyes, tail, and more.

Can you point out all the similarities (things they have in common)?

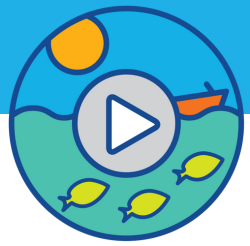
Write them down in the box below, or circle them in **BLUE**.



Similarities

Differences

Now try to find some differences. Write them down in the box to the right, or circle them in **Red**.



Scientists believe that the pipefish is very similar to the ancestor of **seahorses**.

An **ancestor** is a relative that lived long, long ago.

Who do you think your oldest ancestor is?

- a. Your sibling (brother or sister)
- b. Your parent
- c. your grandparent
- d. your great great great grandparent

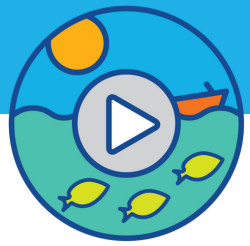
Once upon a time...seahorse ancestors had a straight tail, like the pipefish.

Why do you think they changed over time to have a curled tail now?

What can a seahorse do with their curled tail, that the pipefish cannot do? Find the answer in the pictures below.



What might happen to the seahorses if there was no seagrass left in their habitat?



SEAHORSE FAMILIES

Just like you have a family, so do seahorses. You are similar to the members of your family, but also different.

Seahorses belong to the scientific family,
SYGNATHIDAE

Seahorse cousins and relatives include:
Pipefish, Pipehorses, and
Seadragons!

Everyone in this family has:

- a tiny tubular mouth for eating plankton
- long slender bodies
- skin stretched over bony plates
- no scales
- males carry eggs
- an impressive ability to camouflage!

Camouflage is blending in with your surroundings. "Hiding in plain sight!"
Can you think of any other animals that camouflage?

