The H.O.T. Spot

By Jason S. McIntosh, Ph.D.

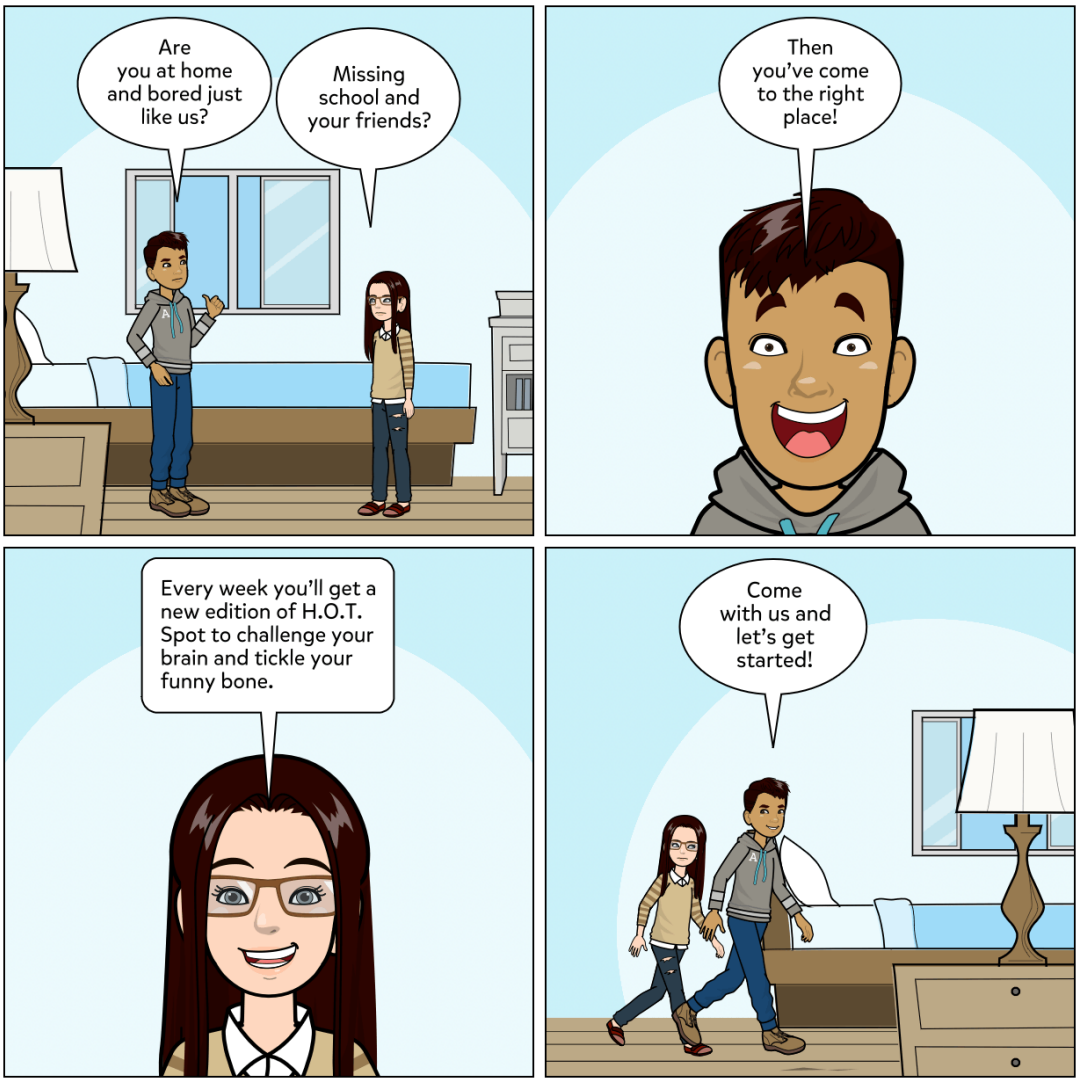
A WEEKLY PUBLICATION FOR CURIOUS KIDS

Issue #1 (April 9, 2020)

CAUTION: Participation may lead to a lack of boredom and a tired brain!

FEATURED TOPIC THIS WEEK:

Creatures of the Deep



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Did You Know?

Only 5% of the world's oceans have been explored.
There are 230,000 known species living in the ocean.
A total of 72% of the world is covered by salt water.

Help Wanted:

A person who studies marine life is called a **marine biologist**.

Education

- At least a bachelor's degree in biology
- Advanced degree preferred

Necessary Skills

- Patient and observant
- A love of water
- Excellent numerical skills
- A team player

Typical Duties

- Study specimens in the lab using microscopes and other tools
- Occasional field work
- Writing up findings for publication

Virtual Field Trip:

Grab your snorkel gear and take a trip to the Monterrey Bay Aquarium in California

www.montereybayaquarium.org/

A Little Bit Punny

These ocean puns have been *kraken* me up.
I hope I get your *seal* of approval, but don't let me *pier* pressure you into laughing! Here is my favorite *krill*er ocean joke:

Why don't oysters give to charity?
Because they are shellfish.

Mystery Picture of the Week:

Can you tell what you are looking at?



TURN YOUR PAPER UPSIDE DOWN TO SEE IF YOU WERE RIGHT:

This is a giant creature that resembles silly string called a siphonophore. The outer ring alone is 154 feet.

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What do you think the featured topic should be next week? Email your teacher with your thoughts.

Quiz Mania

How much do you know about ocean life? Take this quiz to find out. Oh, by the way, you will NOT find an answer key. You will have to do the research yourself to see if you were correct!

1. How many lightbulbs could an electrical eel light up with one sting?
2. Which have been around longer: jelly fish or dinosaurs?
3. What color is the blood of an octopus?
4. Which sea creature is the only animal that the male gives birth and takes care of the babies?
5. What sea creature has no head, mouth, eyes, feelers, bones, heart, lungs, or brain, but is still alive?

Cliff Hangers

I've started a story. You finish it!

After a full day and a half at sea, the research vessel finally arrived at the location marked on the nautical map. As the crew readied the mini-sub for launch, the marine biologist changed into her gear. This was not her first expedition and so the process was very routine. In her mind she went through her checklist and anticipated what she would see during her one hour below the surface. If only she had known what was to come. No one would have predicted that the headlines on every newspaper around the world the following day would read.....

SCAMPER Challenge

SCAMPER is an acronym that helps people think creatively and come up with new ideas.

S = Substitute
C = Combine
A = Adapt
M = Modify
P = Put to Other Uses
E = Eliminate
R = Rearrange

Think of your favorite ocean animal. My favorite, for example, is the sea turtle. Now, use the acronym to create a new sea creature no one has seen before. I imagined a sea turtle combined with a clown fish, eliminated the shell, and rearranged the four flippers so that they are all on its belly. What can you come up with your animal?

Brain Teaser of the Week

Imagine you are on the beach with a five gallon container and a three gallon container.
You have to measure out exactly one gallon of water.
How do you do it?

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