

**Trustworthy**

**Not Trustworthy**

**Unsure**

# Help Save The **ENDANGERED** PACIFIC NORTHWEST TREE OCTOPUS From **EXTINCTION!**

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## THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST TREE OCTOPUS

The Pacific Northwest tree octopus (*Octopus paxarbolis*) can be found in the **temperate rainforests** of the Olympic Peninsula on the west coast of North America. Their habitat lies on the Eastern side of the Olympic mountain range, adjacent to Hood Canal. These solitary cephalopods reach an average size (measured from arm-tip to mantle-tip,) of 30-33 cm. Unlike most other cephalopods, tree octopuses are amphibious, spending only their early life and the period of their mating season in their ancestral aquatic environment. Because of the moistness of the rainforests and specialized skin adaptations, they are able to keep from becoming desiccated for prolonged periods of time, but given the chance they would prefer resting in pooled water.



Rare photo of the elusive tree octopus (Enhanced from cropped telephoto)

An intelligent and inquisitive being (it has the largest brain-to-body ratio for any mollusk), the tree octopus explores its arboreal world by both touch and sight. Adaptations its ancestors originally evolved in the three dimensional environment of the sea have been put to good use in the spatially complex maze of the **coniferous Olympic rainforests**. The challenges and richness of this environment (and the intimate way in which it interacts with it,) may account for the tree octopus's advanced behavioral development. (Some evolutionary theorists suppose that "arboreal adaptation" is what laid the groundwork in primates for the evolution of the human mind.)

Reaching out with one of her eight arms, each covered in sensitive suckers, a tree octopus might grab a branch to pull herself along in a form of locomotion called tentaculation; or she might be preparing to strike at an insect or small vertebrate, such as a frog or rodent, or steal an egg from a bird's nest; or she might even be examining some object that caught her fancy, instinctively desiring to manipulate it with her dexterous limbs (really deserving the title "sensory organs" more than mere "limbs",) in order to better know it.

## TREE OCTOPUS ACTIVITIES

### "TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR TREE OCTOPUS!"



Now you can help tree octopuses get their favorite Halloween treats: **candy corn and shrimp!**

Just download and assemble the special box. Then on Halloween say "Trick-or-treat for Tree Octopus!" and ask your neighbors for candy corn or shrimp. When you have filled the box with treats, hang it on a branch in a forest where tree octopuses dwell. Tree octopuses enjoy the challenge of removing treats from the box!

[Download free box pattern](#) (PDF).

### TREE OCTOPUS HOUSE



If you live in an area with tree octopuses, consider putting up a tree octopus house. This simple, easy to build, structure will provide replacement shelter for tree octopuses who have found themselves homeless due to habitat loss.

NOTE: It is not uncommon to see bats entering and leaving your tree octopus house. Bats will sometimes move in with tree octopuses if they have nowhere else to go. This can lead to tension, as the fastidious tree octopus and slovenly bat will often disagree with each other. Can two woodland creatures share a treehouse without driving each other crazy? Be sure to keep an episodic journal of their wacky hijinks, for science.

# All About Explorers

Everything you've ever wanted to know about every explorer who ever lived...and more!

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## Juan Ponce de Leon

Juan Ponce de Leon was born on December 3, 1460 in Sines, Germany. He became interested in sailing through his cousin, **Christopher Columbus**, and also was close friends with his neighbor, **Vasco Da Gama**, so it was no surprise that he became a world-famous explorer. In 1493 he accompanied Columbus on his second expedition to the Americas. Due to a disagreement between Ponce de Leon and his cousin, he did not return home but remained in Santo Domingo, which is now known as the Dominican Republic. While there, he contracted a rare disease which caused the loss of his right hand. As a result, de Leon had to learn to type all over again with just his left hand.



Juan Ponce de Leon

A rumor had been spreading about gold, so Ponce de Leon set off in search of gold. He sailed in search of these riches to the island of Borinquen, which is now called Puerto Rico. He fought to conquer this island and claim it for Spain. He became Poet Laureate and Official Typist of Puerto Rico.

In 1513 he was hired by Revlon, a cosmetic company, to search for the Fountain of Youth (a body of water that would enable you to look young forever). Along with three ships and many men he set off to discover this fountain. On April 2, 1513 they arrived at St. Augustine, Florida and claimed this land for Spain. Unfortunately, he did not find the Fountain of Youth.

## Francisco Pizarro

In 1478, Pizarro was born in Trujillo, Spain. It is said that he was a "swine handler" as a boy. That means he performed tricks with pigs. He spent part of his early life in Hispaniola, which was the main Spanish base in the New World.

Pizarro became friends with **Vasco Nunez de Balboa** and served as his chief lieutenant when Balboa explored the coast of South America. In 1513 he accompanied Balboa as they moved across the Isthmus of Panama to the Pacific Ocean. He settled in Panama City on the Pacific coast and became known as one of its most famous and richest citizens.



Francisco Pizarro

However, rumors about a very wealthy Inca Empire were circulating. Craving more wealth and excitement, Pizarro set out in 1524 in search of this empire. After many years of failed attempts, Pizarro finally found the empire, which is centered in what we now call Peru.

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## The Christmas Truce

During the first Christmas of the war, something unique happened in some parts of the Western front.

On Christmas Eve, soldiers from both sides put down their weapons and met in no man's land. They sang carols like 'Silent Night' ('Stille Nacht' in German).

Men from both sides gave gifts to each other. The Germans gave sausages to the British and the British gave the Germans chocolates.



A colour postcard possibly produced to send Christmas greetings from the front line.

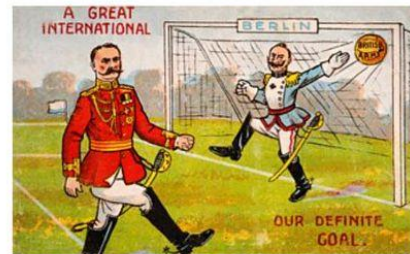
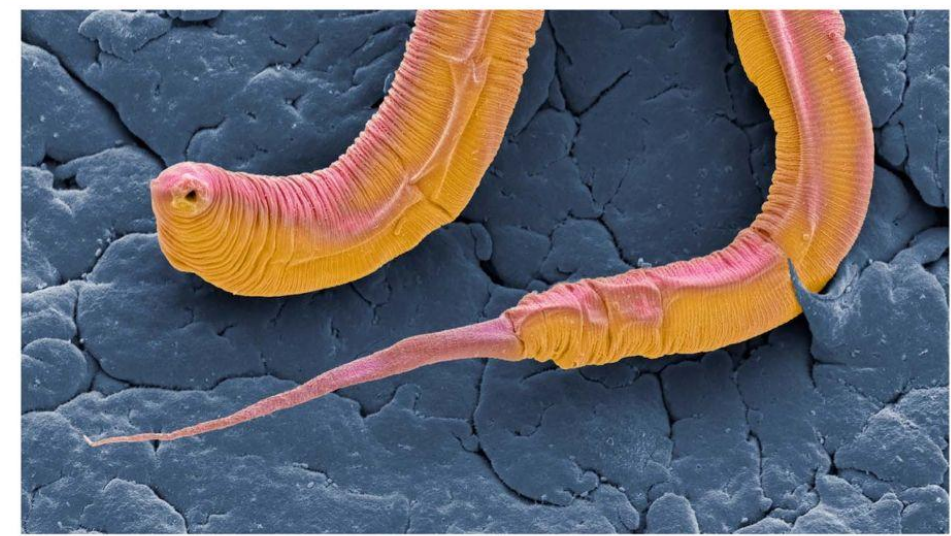


Illustration of a British army officer scoring a goal against a German officer, circa 1914.

On Christmas Day, a British soldier kicked a football out of his trench and the Germans joined in. It was reported that Germany won the match 3-2.

The British High Command did not agree with the truce. They even suggested the Germans were planning an attack. They were ignored and no guns were fired on Christmas Day 1914.

The truce lasted until the New Year in some parts of the Western Front. But it wasn't long before soldiers on both sides returned to life in the trenches.



*C. elegans*, a soil-dwelling worm found around the world, is one of the most-studied animals in biological and genetic research.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

## ANIMALS | NEWS

# Tiny worms 'hear' without an eardrum, surprising scientists

Darwin concluded they didn't after his son played a bassoon and they didn't wriggle away. New research says otherwise.

To find out if the worms could hear or sense sound, Xu's lab picked up where Darwin left off: playing a loud noise at them. To ensure the worms were detecting sound waves in the air rather than vibrations in the petri dish, the team genetically modified worms to remove their sense of touch.

## A typical day in the trenches

- **5am** 'Stand-to' (short for 'Stand-to-Arms', meaning to be on high-alert for enemy attack) half an hour before daylight
- **5.30am** Rum ration
- **6am** Stand-down half an hour after daylight
- **7am** Breakfast (usually bacon and tea)
- **After 8am** Clean selves and weapons, tidy trench
- **Noon** Dinner
- **After dinner** Sleep and downtime
- **5pm** Tea
- **6pm** Stand-to half an hour before dusk
- **6.30pm** Stand-down half an hour after dusk
- **6.30pm onwards** Work all night with some time for rest (patrols, digging trenches, putting up barbed wire, getting stores)



Soldiers sleeping and writing letters.

Soldiers only got to sleep in the afternoon during daylight and at night for an hour at a time. During rest time they wrote letters and played card games.

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INFORMATION BULLETIN

**Titanic Treasure Trove**

Reference Bonanza on Ill-Fated 'Unsinkable' Ship

By MARK F. HALL



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It's been 86 years since the "unsinkable" *Titanic* struck an iceberg on its maiden voyage and sank on April 15, 1912, claiming more than 1,500 lives. Yet interest in the story refuses to abate.



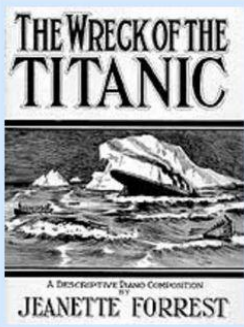
The Titanic under construction, prior to its fateful maiden voyage.

James Cameron's film "Titanic," a love story set against the epic sea disaster, won a record-tying 11 Academy Awards in March and recently became the first motion picture to gross more than \$1 billion at the box office. The film has heightened curiosity about the details of the shipwreck to new highs. For those wishing to learn more about the history of the *Titanic* rather than the fictional story of Jack and Rose, the Library contains a wealth of information covering every aspect of the tragedy.

Among dozens of historical works on the *Titanic* in the Library's collections, Walter Lord's *A Night to Remember*, Don Lynch's *Titanic: An Illustrated History* and *Titanic: Triumph and Tragedy* by John P. Eaton and

Charles A. Haas are probably the best known. All are still available in bookstores -- Lord's book has been in print continuously since it was first published in 1955. Daniel Allen Butler's new book, *Unsinkable*, which currently heads up the bestseller lists, made extensive use of the Library's collections in researching the book. He noted that "in all my visits the staff was always a model of courtesy."

Beyond the history books, there are many primary sources for the *Titanic* historian to explore in the Library. From the time the first distress signal from the ship was relayed to New York, the newspapers were on full alert. *The New York Times* and other New York papers, such as the *New York American*, *Herald*, *Evening Post* and *Sun*, as well as *The Washington Post*, *Evening Star*, *Boston Globe*, *London Times* and more are on microfilm in the Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room. There, one can trace the story, from the first reports of the *Titanic's* collision and the White Star Line's insistence that the ship would stay afloat and all would be safe, to the later editions when the horrible truth finally emerged. After the survivors reached New York on the *Carpathia*, many sold their stories to journalists, and many of them (survivors and journalists alike) embellished their stories greatly for dramatic effect.



In the wake of the disaster, there were many cultural expressions of grief, representing the tragedy's impact throughout the Western world. The Music Division has two boxes full of sheet music written about the *Titanic*, almost all from the period 1912-14. Most of them are titled "The Loss of the *Titanic*," "The Sinking of the *Titanic*," "The Wreck of the *Titanic*" or similar variations. Dozens of pieces by various lyricists were set to music written by M.C. Hanford. Other items are more unusual, such as "The Sinking of the *Titanic* March" by Lulu Wells and "A Pleasure Ride to Death Symphony: Descriptive of the *Titanic* Disaster" by Carl Scheben. Similarly, the Manuscript Division holds a collection of poetry and other work inspired by the disaster as part of the Taft papers.

The largest bear in the world and the Arctic's top predator, polar bears are a powerful symbol of the strength and endurance of the Arctic. The polar bear's Latin name, *Ursus maritimus*, means "sea bear." It's an apt name for this majestic species, which spends much of its life in, around, or on the ocean--predominantly on the sea ice. In the United States, Alaska is home to two polar bear subpopulations.

Considered talented swimmers, polar bears can sustain a pace of six miles per hour by paddling with their front paws and holding their hind legs flat like a rudder. They have a thick layer of body fat and a water-repellent coat that insulates them from the cold air and water.

Polar bears spend over 50% of their time hunting for food. A polar bear might catch only one or two out of 10 seals it hunts, depending on the time of year and other variables. Their diet mainly consists of ringed and bearded seals because they need large amounts of fat to survive.

Polar bears rely heavily on sea ice for traveling, hunting, resting, mating and, in some areas, maternal dens. But because of ongoing and potential loss of their sea ice habitat resulting from climate change--the primary threat to polar bears Arctic-wide--polar bears were listed as a threatened species in the US under the Endangered Species Act in May 2008. As their sea ice habitat recedes earlier in the spring and forms later in the fall, polar bears are increasingly spending longer periods on land, where they are often attracted to areas where humans live.

**VU** STATUS  
Vulnerable

POPULATION  
22,000-31,000

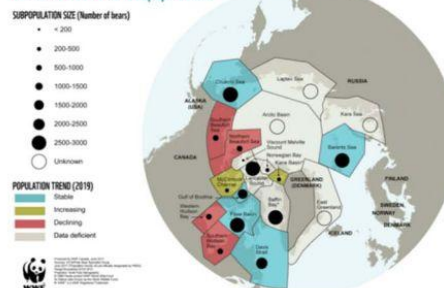
**Aa** SCIENTIFIC NAME  
*Ursus maritimus*

WEIGHT  
800-1,300 pounds (males), 300-700 (females)

LENGTH  
6-9 feet

HABITATS  
Arctic Ocean, sea ice, and adjacent coastal areas

**Trends in Polar Bear Subpopulations**



**Fun Facts:**

- 40kph: The polar bear's top speed
- 42 razor sharp teeth: With jagged back teeth and canines larger than grizzly teeth, they pack quite the bite
- 30 cm wide paws: The size of a dinner plate! A natural snowshoe that helps the bear trek across treacherous ice and deep snow
- 3 eyelids: The third helps protect the bear's eyes from the elements
- 4 inches of fat: Under the bear's skin to keep it warm
- Black skin
- Transparent fur
- Blue tongue

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