

ABOUT THE BOOK

Deep, deep down, at the very bottom of the ocean, lies a secret world. Through lyrical narration, this spare-text STEM picture book takes readers on a journey to a place very few humans have ever been—the Mariana Trench. The imagined voyage debunks scary myths about this mysterious place with surprising and beautiful truths about life at Earth's deepest point. *Deep, Deep Down* shows a vibrant world far below, and teaches readers how interconnected our lives are to every place on the planet.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Lydia Lukidis

Lydia Lukidis is the author of more than 50 trade and educational books for children. Her titles include *Deep, Deep Down: The Secret Underwater Poetry of the Mariana Trench* (Capstone, 2023), *The Broken Bees' Nest* (Kane Press, 2019), which was nominated for a

Cybils Award, and *No Bears Allowed* (Clear Fork Media, 2019). Lydia is passionate about fostering a love for literacy with children. In addition to offering writing workshops and author visits in elementary schools, she is very involved in the kidlit community and volunteers as a judge on Rate your Story. www.lydialukidis.com

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



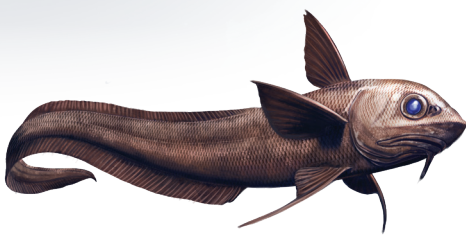
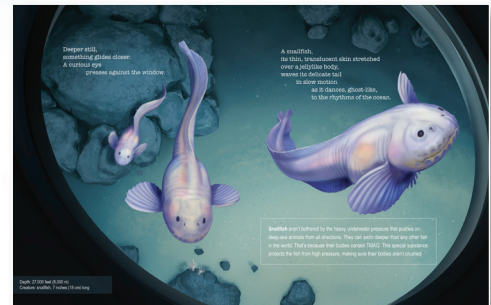
Juan Calle

Juan Calle is a former biologist turned science illustrator, trained on the Science Illustration program at UC Monterrey Bay. He worked early on his illustrator career for field guides of plants and animals of this country of origin, Colombia, and now owns and works in his art studio, Liberum Donum in Bogotá, Colombia, creating art, storyboarding and his passion—comic books.

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Discussion Ideas

1. In which ocean does the Mariana Trench lie? How deep is it and what is the deepest spot called?
2. Based on what you read in *Deep, Deep Down*, do real sea “monsters” actually live in the Mariana Trench?
3. What are some of the most hostile conditions of the Mariana Trench? Why do you think there isn’t much food deep down in the trench?
4. What do animals need to survive in the cold, deep water of the Mariana Trench? What are the unique features of the animals who live there? Explain how the animals use these features to survive and grow.
5. Using examples from the book, explain how living animals rely on nonliving things to survive in the trench.
6. How do you know which ocean animals could or could not survive in the Mariana Trench? Use evidence from the text in your explanation.
7. How could humans create and use similar features or strategies to survive in the cold?
8. Why do so few researchers and scientists journey to the bottom of the trench?
9. How is the animal life in the Mariana Trench different from the animal life in other parts of the ocean (such as a coral reef)? Use evidence from the text in your explanation.
10. What might happen to the animals if the ocean water suddenly got warmer?



Activity Ideas

1. Based on what students read in *Deep, Deep Down*, have them make a model of a food chain using animals living in the Mariana Trench.
2. Researchers have found plastic and other chemicals in the stomachs of some animals in the Mariana Trench. Discuss the global problem of plastic pollution and how it threatens living organisms in the world’s oceans. Ask students to create an invention that would prevent trash and plastic from entering the ocean trenches.
3. Ask students to think about the three most hostile conditions of the trench: a lack of sunlight, not much food, and intense pressure. Invite them to imagine a new creature, one that could survive such conditions. Have them draw a picture of and write a few sentences about this special creature.