Which Animal Is the Weirdest in the World?

The world is full of unique -- even bizarre -- animals. We're going to tell you about five animals that you probably have never heard of before. We want to know what you think: Which of these animals is the weirdest animal in the world?



Chinese giant salamander. This salamander is the

largest salamander in the world. It lives along mountain streams and lakes in China. The salamander can grow to be 6 feet long and weigh more than 60 pounds. It has a large head, small eyes, and dark wrinkly skin. The salamander has very poor eyesight, but it can catch insects, frogs, and fish by sensing the slight vibrations they make.

Yeti crab. This sea creature, which can grow to be 6 inches long, was discovered in the South Pacific Ocean in 2005. The yeti crab's legs and claws are covered with short, stiff, bright yellow hairs that make it look furry. As a matter of fact, some people have given this crab a nickname: the "furry lobster."

NEWS WORD BOX

salamander feature unique wrinkly vibrations bizarre

Almiqui. The almiqui (say ol-mee-KEE) looks something like a large brown rat. It can grow to be 20 inches long from the tip of its long, pointy snout to the end of its hairless tail. The almiqui is native to Cuba, but it is rarely seen because it only comes out of its underground burrow at night.

Blobfish. This unusual fish is well named. It looks like a blob of gooey stuff, and it is not very active. It is just a *blob* that mostly floats above the deep-ocean floor off the coast of Australia. The blobfish's face is its most unique feature. It has a large, fat nose between two small eyes, and it seems to frown. The blobfish is rarely seen by humans.

Coconut crab. This land crab lives on islands in the Indian Ocean. It looks like a hermit crab, but its body can grow to be 14 inches long and its legs can span 3 feet in length! Its two front legs have claws that can lift things that weigh 50 pounds or more. The coconut crab eats fruits and nuts. It will even climb a tree for a coconut meal.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

- Use your imagination to draw one of the animals described above.
- Then compare your drawing to the actual animal at www.educationworld.com/animals.
- Finally, display pictures of the real animals. Vote for the one you think is weirdest. Have your teacher report the results of your class vote at the URL at the bottom of this page.