

# *The Legend of the Seahorse*



*From National Geographic:* Seahorses are truly unique, and not just because of their unusual miniature horse-like shape. Unlike most other fish, they are monogamous and mate for life. They are among the only animal species on Earth in which the male bears the unborn young.

Male seahorses are equipped with a brood pouch on their front-facing, side (much like the pouch of a kangaroo). When mating, the female deposits her eggs into his pouch, and the male fertilizes them internally. He carries the eggs in his pouch until they hatch, then releases fully formed, miniature seahorses into the water.



Found in shallow tropical and temperate waters throughout the world, these vertical swimmers can range in size from 1.5 centimeters to 35 centimeters long.

They propel themselves by using a small fin on their back that flutters up to 35 times per second. Even smaller pectoral fins located near the back of the head are used for steering.

They anchor themselves with their curly tails to sea grasses and corals, using their elongated snouts to suck in plankton and small crustaceans that drift by. Voracious eaters, they graze continually and can consume 3,000 or more brine shrimp per day.