

Friday, December 13, 2013

New Life in the Antarctic Sea!

Scientists discover many new creatures in the Antarctic Sea.

Five years ago, scientists took a trip in the deep blue sea. They went to a part of the Antarctic Ocean that humans had barely studied before. They found so many different animals there, but they didn't know what they were! **Experts** from around the world had to help identify them.

The scientists are finally sharing their findings now, and they are **amazing!** There are more than 30 new animals, including a squishy, orange octopus, a fuzzy worm with a spiky head, and a funny-looking sea cucumber! They also found an icky sea snail that eats dead octopi and squid.

These animals, and new starfish, king crab, and more, live deep in the Amundsen Sea off the west coast of Antarctica. Some of them live more than 4,000 feet underwater!

"Until now we knew nothing," said study leader Katrin Linse to *National Geographic*. That's because thick sea ice covers the area for most of the year. Scientists weren't even able to *get* there before! But in the summer of 2008, the ice was thin enough for their study.

The scientists are still studying the creatures they found on that trip. And Linse thinks that the number of new **species** will grow.

By Alexandra Friedell



A king crab and an orange octopus!

FACT:

Linse said that the creatures in the Amundsen Sea move around a lot, instead of staying in the same area all the time.

ACT:

Look out for new animals! Just don't get too close until you know what they are!

VOCABULARY:

Experts: people with special knowledge
amazing: wonderful; fantastic; great
species: type of animal

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Amundsen Sea,
Antarctica



The ice sheet that drains into the Amundsen Sea is almost two miles thick!