

## Blinking Lights

Below the ocean's surface, rays of sunlight make the water look sparkly and bright.

Fish that swim in this area can block out the sunlight and cast shadows in the water below them. When fish cast shadows, predators know exactly where to attack. Casting shadows puts fish at a disadvantage because the shadows make them easy prey for predators.

Many fish and other marine animals have ways to overcome this disadvantage.

Some marine animals, like lanternfish, have special parts just under their scales that light up. The lanternfish's lights are mostly on the underside of their body. Having lights on their underside keeps lanternfish safe from predators that swim below them. This is because lanternfish do not look like the predator's next meal. Instead, they look like the sparkly, bright rays of the sun shining on the water.



# Blinking Lights

Below the ocean's surface, rays of sunlight make the water look sparkly and bright. Fish that swim in this area can block out<sup>25</sup> the sunlight and cast shadows in the water below them. When fish cast shadows, predators know exactly where to attack. Casting shadows puts fish at<sup>50</sup> a disadvantage because the shadows make them easy prey for predators.

Many fish and other marine animals have ways to overcome this disadvantage. Some marine<sup>75</sup> animals, like lanternfish, have special parts just under their scales that light up. The lanternfish's lights are mostly on the underside of their body. Having<sup>100</sup> lights on their underside keeps lanternfish safe from predators that swim below them. This is because lanternfish do not look like the predator's next meal.<sup>125</sup> Instead, they look like the sparkly, bright rays of the sun shining on the water.<sup>140</sup>

## Review

1. How can shadows put fish at a disadvantage?
  - A. Predators look for fish hiding in shadows.
  - B. Shadows make fish easy to see.
  - C. The lanternfish's lights make shadows in the water.
  - D. Shadows are hard to see in the bright sunlight.

2. How do lanternfish stay safe from predators?

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