



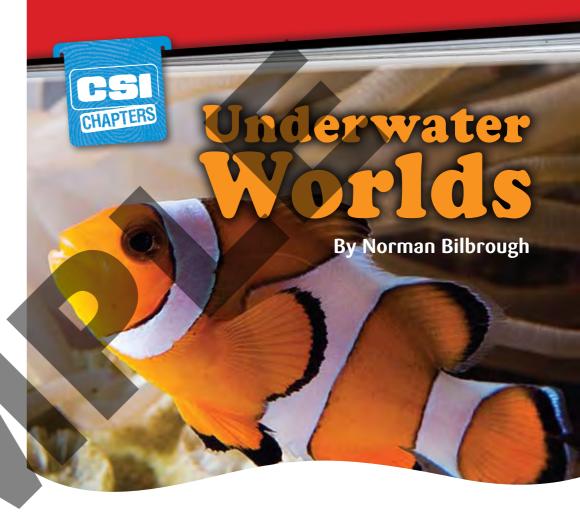


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Kelp forests exist in oceans throughout the world. The kelp can grow 2 feet (60 centimeters) in one day, and a large kelp plant can grow to the height of a 20-story building!

Trees on the land have hard trunks and spreading roots, but these underwater kelp giants don't have root systems. They have finger-like anchors that grip the rocks on the seafloor, called holdfasts.





Land trees get their food from the ground. Their roots suck up **nutrients** and water from the soil. Sap rises from their roots and travels up to the flowers and fruit and leaves. Kelp doesn't feed itself this way, though. It gets its food by swaying through the water and picking up tiny **living organisms** that float by.

Many kinds of small sea creatures such as snails, rockfish, anchovies, and herrings live in the kelp. The underwater forest is their **habitat**. They hide in the thick kelp and holdfasts from **predators** such as seals, dolphins, and sea lions. In turn, these bigger creatures hide from sharks and killer whales. The strange-looking dugong, or sea cow, can usually be found there hiding from sharks, too.

Tiny shellfish such as blue-rayed limpets chew kelp for food. Colorful sea **anemones**[uh-NEM-uh-nees] are underwater plants that are low to the ground. They live on rocks in the kelp forest and use their stinging tentacles to capture shrimp.



cover from killer whales.