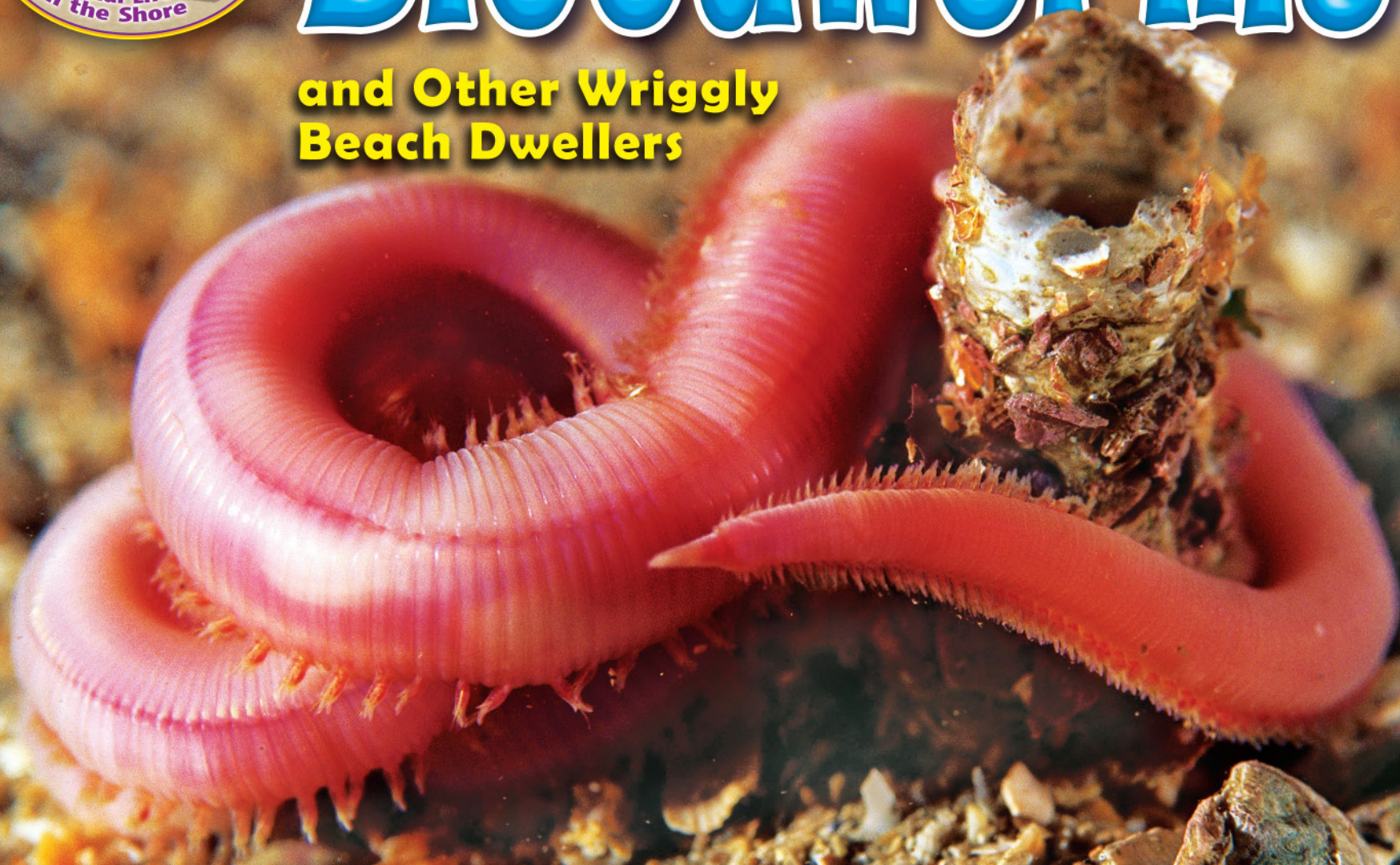


Bloodworms

**and Other Wiggly
Beach Dwellers**



by Ellen Lawrence

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and Other Wiggly Beach Dwellers

by Ellen Lawrence

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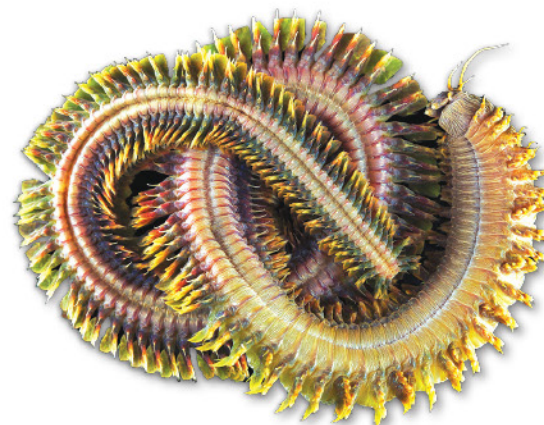
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Contents

Secret Beach Dwellers	4
Going Hunting!	6
Fierce Fangs	8
Meet a Lugworm	10
Sandy Spaghetti.	12
Sand Mason Worms	14
Tentacle Time!	16
King of Worms	18
Baby Ragworms	20
Science Lab	22
Science Words	23
Index	24
Read More	24
Learn More Online	24
About the Author	24

Secret Beach Dwellers

At the seashore, seagulls soar in the sky and crabs crawl over sand.

However, some seashore animals live secret lives.

These wriggly beach dwellers are **marine** worms that mostly stay hidden underground.

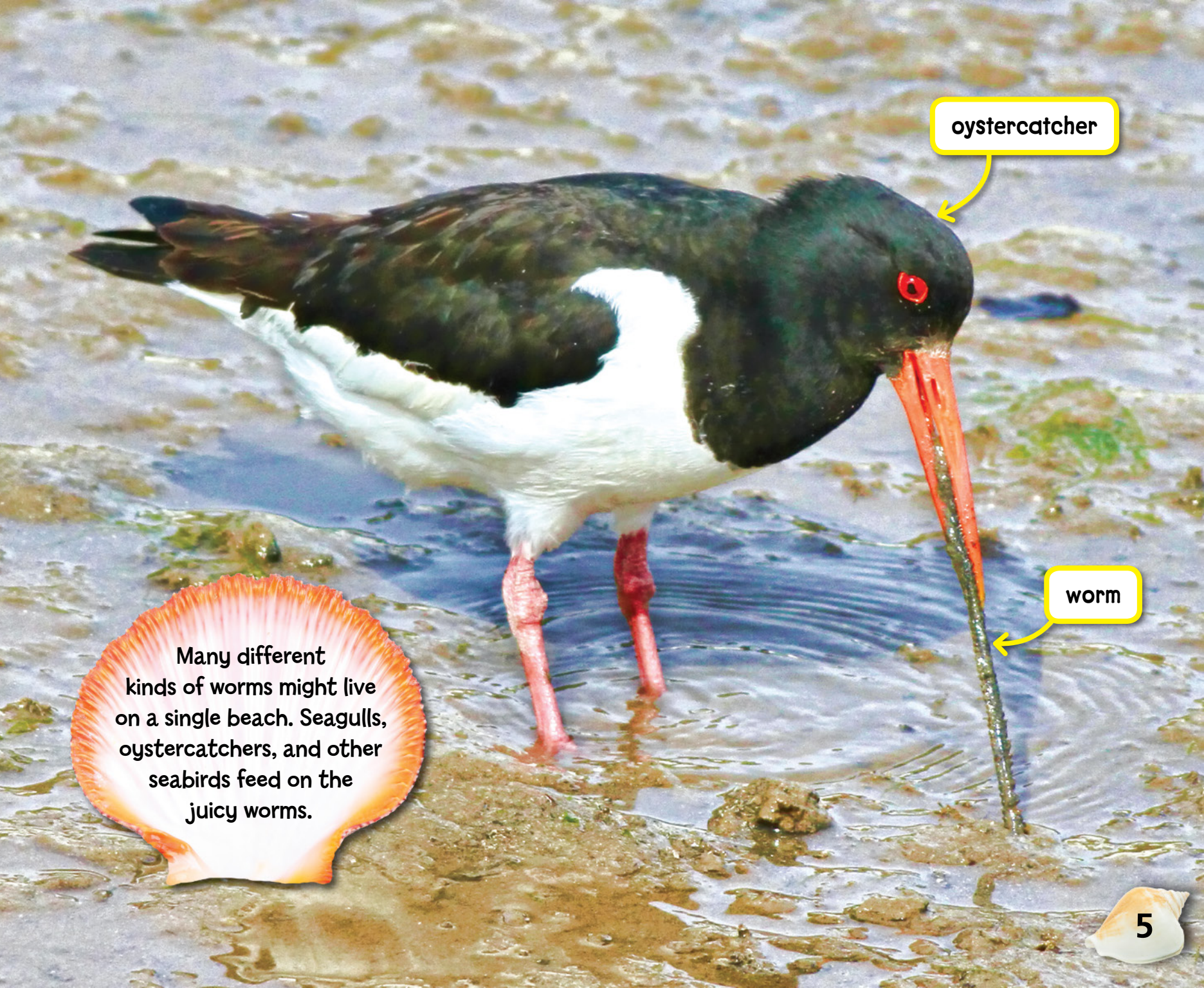
The only clues they leave behind are holes and **castings** in the muddy sand!



worm



wormholes and castings



oystercatcher

worm

Many different kinds of worms might live on a single beach. Seagulls, oystercatchers, and other seabirds feed on the juicy worms.

Going Hunting!

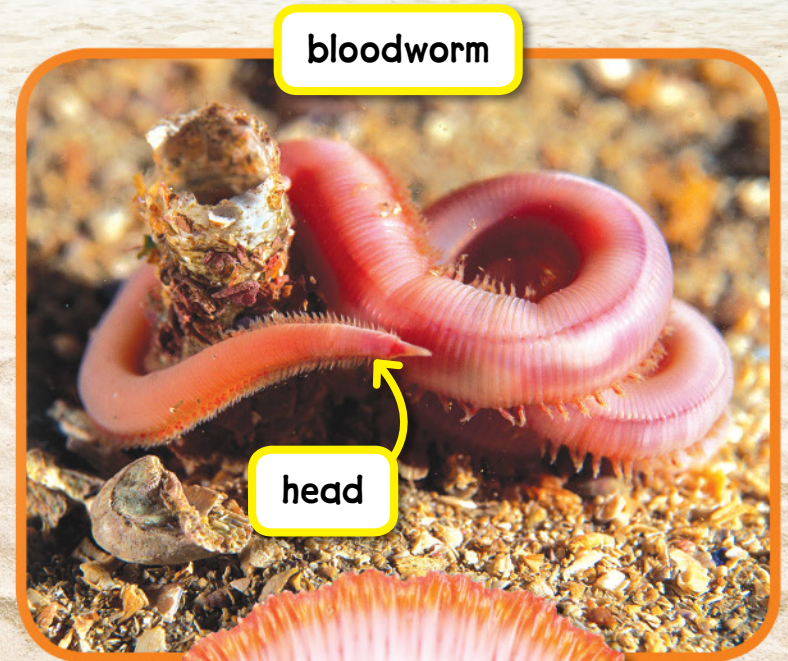
A fierce hunter called a bloodworm lives on many beaches.

This worm can grow to be more than 12 inches (30.5 cm) long!

It moves through the sand hunting for beach fleas and small **shellfish**.

Once the bloodworm finds a meal, it attacks.

It shoots an alien-like mouthpart called a proboscis (proh-BOS-uhss) out of its head!



A bloodworm gets its name from its reddish-pink color. The worm's skin, however, is actually clear. The red color comes from the worm's blood showing through its skin.

a bloodworm
hunting

How do you think
a bloodworm
kills its prey?



proboscis