



Clownfish

The Clownfish, or Clown Anemonefish, is easily recognizable by its bright orange color and three vertical white stripes on its sides. You are probably familiar with the clownfish from the Disney Pixar movie *Finding Nemo*. However, clownfish can also be pink or black. Most clownfish grow to be between four and five inches long.

Clownfish live in the Southwest Pacific Ocean, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean, in the Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef system. There, clownfish have a symbiotic relationship with anemones, which means that both species benefit from it. The anemone is a sort of underwater plant that attaches itself to a rock or coral. It has many poisonous tentacles to protect itself from predators. However, the clownfish is coated with a layer of mucus which keeps it safe from the anemone's poison. The clownfish lives in the anemone as a way to hide from predators, and the anemone stays healthy because the clownfish cleans it by eating any parasites that might otherwise make it sick.

1. Where do clownfish live? _____

2. Describe the relationship between clownfish and anemone.
