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Follow our photo or video instructions on making an easy sock puppet gulper eel. See a video too of a gulper eel inflating!



WHAT A MOUTH!



Gulper eels (*Eurypharynx pelecyanoides*) are another unusual midnight zone species. They're most often found at depths between 1000 and 2100m.

They have a small body and a very, very large mouth. When they open their mouth as wide as it will go, it is 11 times the volume of the whole eel!

Scientists think that they most often feed like baleen whales, scooping in prey and the surrounding water, swallowing that prey whole, then squeezing the water out between their teeth and through their gills. When they are all filled up, they look like a black balloon.

They eat fish, crustaceans, squid, and octopus.

Some scientists think their wide mouth allows them to go after quite large fish if food is hard to find.

FACT:
Another common name for gulper eels is pelican eels.



Why do you think gulper eels have tiny eyes? Why have a light organ that glows a pink colour at the tip of their whip-like tails?

