






Celebrating and Caring for God's Creatures 1

FOOTBALL SIZED EYES- THE COOL COLOSSOL SQUID

Equipment: Two footballs, ideally white or yellow with black pupils stick or drawn on. Also many children won't have much idea what a squid looks like, so if you have access to a screen or can bring in a picture, it might really help.

Plan:

-  Show everyone the football/eyes. Perhaps get two children out to hold them up, move them and make them 'look' around the room.
-  Ask if anyone knows/can guess what sort of animal has big eyes (slightly bigger in fact, approximately 30cm across and probably the biggest eyes of any creature on the planet).
-  The answer is the Colossal Squid. Here are some other facts which people might enjoy:
 - They're about 13 metres long, which makes them 650 times bigger than they're littlest squid cousin at only 2cm.
 - They are keen hunters and like to eat big fish and other squid. But Sperm Whales are prepared to take them on in a fight. Given the chance, Sperm Whales will eat Colossal Squid, although Whales have been found with scars where their lunch has decided to fight back.
 - Female Colossal Squid are believed to be bigger than Male Colossal Squid.
 - You won't meet one paddling off the coast of the UK; they live in the far south of the globe, from Antarctica to the southern tip of South America, South Africa, and New Zealand.
 - They can live as far down as 2133 metres (7000ft). (The London Eye is about 135 metres tall, and Mount Snowdon is 1085 metres tall, so 2133 metres is a long way down)!
 - These creatures weren't discovered until 1925, and we still know very little about them. No-one has ever found a fully grown adult.
 - Human beings have always been fascinated by sea-creatures, partly because we know so little about them.

Purpose/Teaching: The Christian Bible contains lots of references to fish and sea-monsters, including the famous Leviathan. In the story of Job, God reminds Job of little human beings actually know about animals with whom we share the planet, including sea-creatures. (Job 40-41).

- Sadly, human beings are doing lots of damage to the oceans of the world and the creatures who live in them. Things like pollution, over-fishing, irresponsible fishing methods, whaling and the effects of global warming are all taking their toll.
- Our behaviour causes many animals to suffer and we are in danger of losing lots of species. With creatures that we know very little about, like the Colossal Squid, we could be doing lots of damage without even knowing. If we want the chance to learn more about them, we will have to take much better care of the Earth than we have been doing.

Christians believe that human beings have a special duty to look after the world and the animals who share it with us.

Let's pray for help in doing that: Wonderful God, you love your world and everything that swims, wriggles, climbs, runs and waddles over it. Help us to keep the land, sea and sky clean, and to respect all who lives there. Amen.

