Winter break countdown!

The week before the break we will be playing some Winter-ish Named Organism Bingo. Prizes include my admiration, candy, homework passes, extra credit, and of course - your pride. At the end of each class in December a new fact of the day for an organism will be announced. Write these down so you know the information for bingo. You can use the notes when you play. On the days I do not see your class be sure to get clued in on the previous day’s organism … at the end of class. You’ll want to get the name, type, habitat, and fun fact for each organism.

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| Day | Organism(s) | Type | Habitat | Fun/funny fact |  |
|  | Shepard’s beaked whale | Marine mammal - whale | Polar region worldwide in southern hemisphere | Rarely seen in the wild; only four confirmed sightings; most information is known from stranding of this marine mammal. |  |
|  | Snowy plover | Bird | North and South America, Eurasia, and Africa (In North America it is restricted to the Gulf and Pacific coasts of the US) | Usually raises two broods a year, and sometimes three. The female deserts her mate and brood about the time the chicks hatch and initiates a new breeding attempt with a different male. |  |
|  | Christmas tree worm | Worm | Tropical reefs worldwide | Has two brightly colored crowns that protrude from its tube-like body. These appendages are used for respiration and to catch dinner floating in the water. |  |
|  | Cookie cutter shark | Shark | Deep-waters of warmer areas worldwide | Named after the cookie-shaped wounds that it leaves on the bodies of its prey. |  |
|  | Chocolate cookie sea star | Sea star | Warm areas of the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean and Red Sea | Like a chocolate chip cookie, this invertebrate has dark brown pointy horns shaped like chocolate chips all over the top of it for protection. |  |
|  | Angel shark | Shark | North-eastern Atlantic | With its exceptionally flat body and large pectoral fins this shark resembles a large ray more than a shark |  |
|  | Ribbon fish | Bony fish | Rarely seen pelagic fish  Specimens have been taken in the northern Atlantic, Mediterranean, Bay of Bengal, at Mauritius, and Pacific | The fish is commonly called "earthquake fish" in Taiwan because the fish are popularly believed to appear following major earthquake events due to alleged sensitivity to disturbances in the ocean floor although they are not bottom feeders |  |
|  | Christmas anemone | Anemone | tide pools along the Pacific (common to bays, harbors and seawalls as far north as Alaska) | Got it’s name because of its dark green body with red striations that run vertically along the column toward the head. |  |
|  | Christmas wrasse | Bony fish | Indo-Pacific | Only the males have bright ladderlike blue-green markings on a reddish body. The brown and green initial phase adults (both sexes) are smaller and drab by comparison. |  |
|  | Star puffer | Bony fish | Tropical and Subtropical in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea | The skin is not covered with scales but is prickly. To ward off potential enemies, they can inflate their bodies by swallowing air or water. Females have a toxic poison in their ovaries, skin. and liver which protects it from predators. It becomes toxic as it eats bacteria that contain the toxin. |  |
|  | Pinecone fish | Bony fish | Indo-Pacific | This fish has phosphorescent organs at either side of the lower jaw that can turn off and on by movement of the jaw. These bioluminescent organs attract plankton on which the pinecone fish feeds at night. The bioluminescence is caused by phosphorescent bacteria, which live with the fish in a symbiotic relationship. The color of the bioluminescence varies from yellow to blue-green. |  |
|  | Star coral | Coral | Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, Florida, Bahamas, and Bermuda | Grows in fairly small colonies: often forming domes, boulders, or cone-shaped structures, or sometimes growing in flat plates or thick crusts. |  |
|  | Jingle shell | Mollusk | Atlantic Coast (shallow waters, beaches, oyster beds, and mollusk shells) | Filter feeders; Got it’s common name for the sound that is made when several shells are strung together as a chime. Can also be heard when waves beat down upon beaches strewn with shells. |  |
|  | Peppermint angelfish | Bony fish | Eastern-central Pacific | A shy species hiding amongst rocks and rubble of reef cliffs. Exported as an aquarium fish that can fetch high prices (one was once purchases for $30,000) |  |
|  | Peppermint shrimp | Shrimp | Atlantic from Long Island to Florida and along the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Port Aransas, Texas | Bright red stripes on its translucent body. By contrast, it’s eggs are bright green  A male later become a hermaphrodite; It has four molts as a male before changing sexes. During this hermaphroditic stage the shrimp gradually lose their male organs, likely because more energy is being allocated to the development of female reproductive organs. |  |
|  | Candy cane goby | Bony fish | South America (estuaries and rivers over sandy and mud bottoms) | Shy fish that flits from coral patch to coral patch in a defined territory darting into the water column when prey is sighted. |  |
|  | Harp seal | Marine mammal - seal | Icy waters of the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans | The young seals are famous for their snowy white coats  Males get a harp-like marking at age seven but females get them at 12  A mother harp seal can distinguish its baby from hundreds of others based on smell alone. |  |
|  | Bearded seal | Marine mammal - seal | Sea ice; Arctic/Alaska | Juvenile bearded seals tend to associate with sea ice less than adults and are often found in ice free areas such as bays and estuaries. The distribution of bearded seals appears to be strongly associated with shallow water and high biomass of the benthic prey they feed on.  Solitary animals, except mother-pup pairs, which rest close to a hole or crack in the sea ice so that a quick escape from predators is possible.  Have good vision and hearing and a moderate sense of smell.  Males vocalize during the spring breeding season using four types of calls: trills, ascents, sweeps, and moans. Each male’s vocalizations are unique and they return to a specific breeding territory each year for mating. |  |
|  | Decorator crab | Crab | Pacific coast (loves kelp forests) | Camouflages itself with tiny seaweeds and animals like anemones and sponges. Selects pieces of seaweed and small animals from its habitat and fastens them to hooked velcrolike bristles on its back. |  |
|  | Snowflake moray eel | Bony fish | Temperature and tropical Indo-Pacific | Covered with mucus instead of scales; Nocturnal; Ambush predators; Not an aggressive animal, but it is not afraid to give a nasty bite. Some scuba divers are bit when they try to hand-feed them. |  |