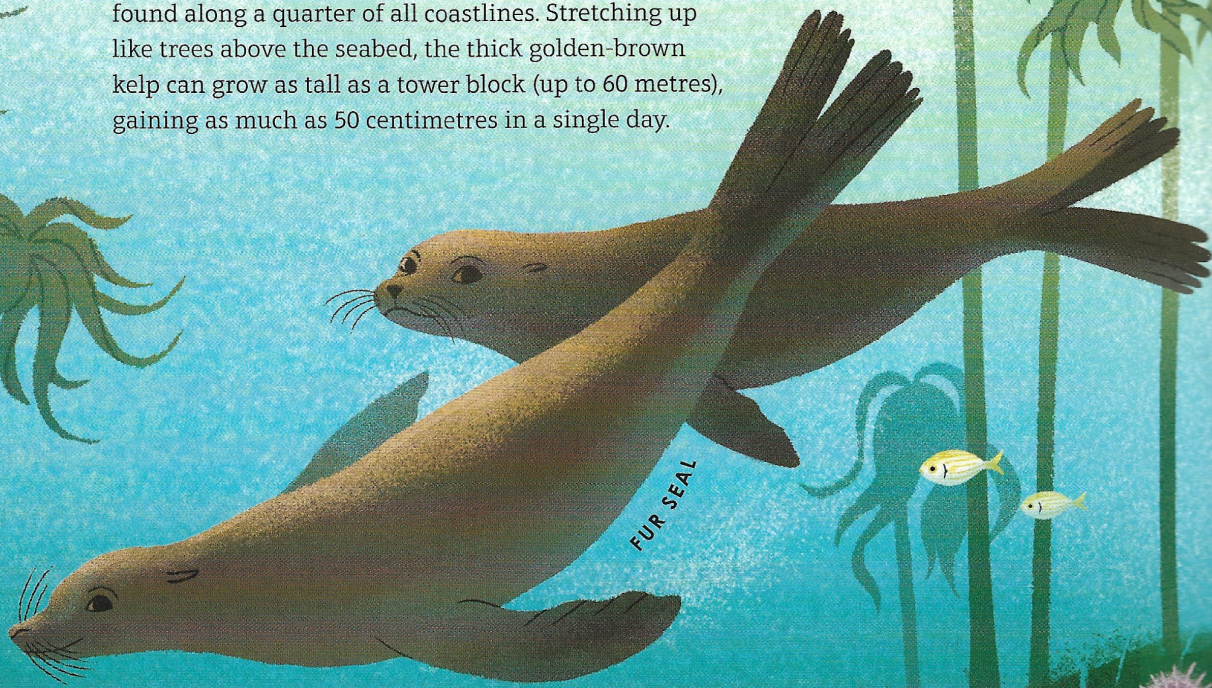


GREEN SEAS

UNDERWATER FORESTS AND GARDENS

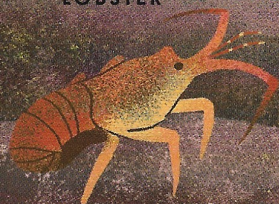
Just as there are green forests on land, their mirror image blooms under the sea. Underwater kelp forests and seagrass meadows, along with coastal saltmarshes and mangrove wetlands, are some of the most important – yet overlooked – ecosystems on our planet. Here, in these ‘green seas’, life begins, grows and is nourished.

In cold, shallow waters, green fronds drift in a delicate underwater ballet. These are the world’s **KELP** forests, found along a quarter of all coastlines. Stretching up like trees above the seabed, the thick golden-brown kelp can grow as tall as a tower block (up to 60 metres), gaining as much as 50 centimetres in a single day.



FUR SEAL

ROCK
LOBSTER



Competition is fierce for space and food: **FUR SEALS** and **SHARKS** swim above the thick canopy, **ROCKFISH** hover between stems (called stipes), and **ROCK LOBSTER** take cover amongst the kelp roots (called holdfasts).