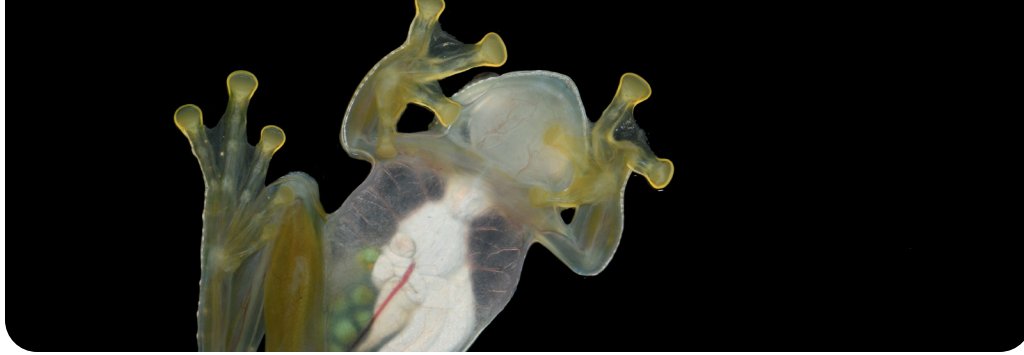


# Ghostly Critters



 **beanstack originals**



# Ghostly Critters

*Come face-to-face with hauntingly cool animals.*



Are ghosts real? Maybe not, but there are lots of ghostly critters around the world. Check out these spooky animals that might make you scream—with joy!

## *See-Through Frog*

First up, meet a frog that has something in common with the spirits from ghost stories: you can see right through it. The reticulated glass frog has translucent, or see-through, skin on its belly. In fact, if you looked under one of these frogs, you would be able to see its internal organs. You could even watch its heart beat. Spooky!

Of course, this frog is not a ghost. It is a reptile. A reptile is a type of animal that has scales and is cold-blooded. This means that it must use the heat from the world around it to stay warm. Reticulated glass frogs live in Central and South America. There, they eat small insects like crickets or spiders. Boo!

### **FUN FACT**

**The glasswing butterfly has ghostly, transparent wings.**

## *Mind-Boggling Fish*

Did you think the see-through frog was strange? Get ready to meet an animal even more unusual. Deep, deep in the ocean, there lives a fish with a see-through head. The barreleye fish has a forehead that is totally clear, or transparent. Inside this ghostly head, you can see two



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Barrel-sponge Goby.

large, green eyes—the things the fish was named for. And behind its eyes? You can spot its brain!

The barreleye fish lives in the deep waters of the Pacific Ocean. In the deep sea, there is almost no light from above. The barreleye's giant eyes help it see in the dark. Scientists think that these fish can turn their eyes all around to see food above them or in front of them. They feed on tiny ocean animals called zooplankton. What a frightening sight!



Tiny ghost octopus

National Marine Sanctuaries, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

### Spooky Octopus

Imagine exploring the deep, dark ocean. Suddenly, you come across ... a ghost! Okay, it is not really a ghost, but it sure looks a lot like one. In fact, this octopus looks so much like a spooky ghost that it is named the ghost octopus. Like all octopuses, the ghost octopus has eight arms and a large head. However, it is an unusual color. Ghost octopuses do not have any pigment, which is what gives living things their color. Because of that, it is as pale as a ghost.



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On top of that, this octopus also has a very ghostlike body. It does not have very many muscles. This makes it soft and squishy, almost like Jell-O. Muscles are the body part that help animals move. However, it takes a lot of en-

ergy to make and use muscles. Because ghost octopuses live in the deep sea, there is not a lot of food to get energy. Fewer muscles might mean that these octopuses don't have to eat very much. That's scary!

### DID YOU KNOW?

**On top of having eight arms, octopuses also have other amazing body parts. They have blue blood, three hearts, and nine brains!**