



# How important are appearances?

Bill Schlotz / Many Species



# Let's look at this week's story

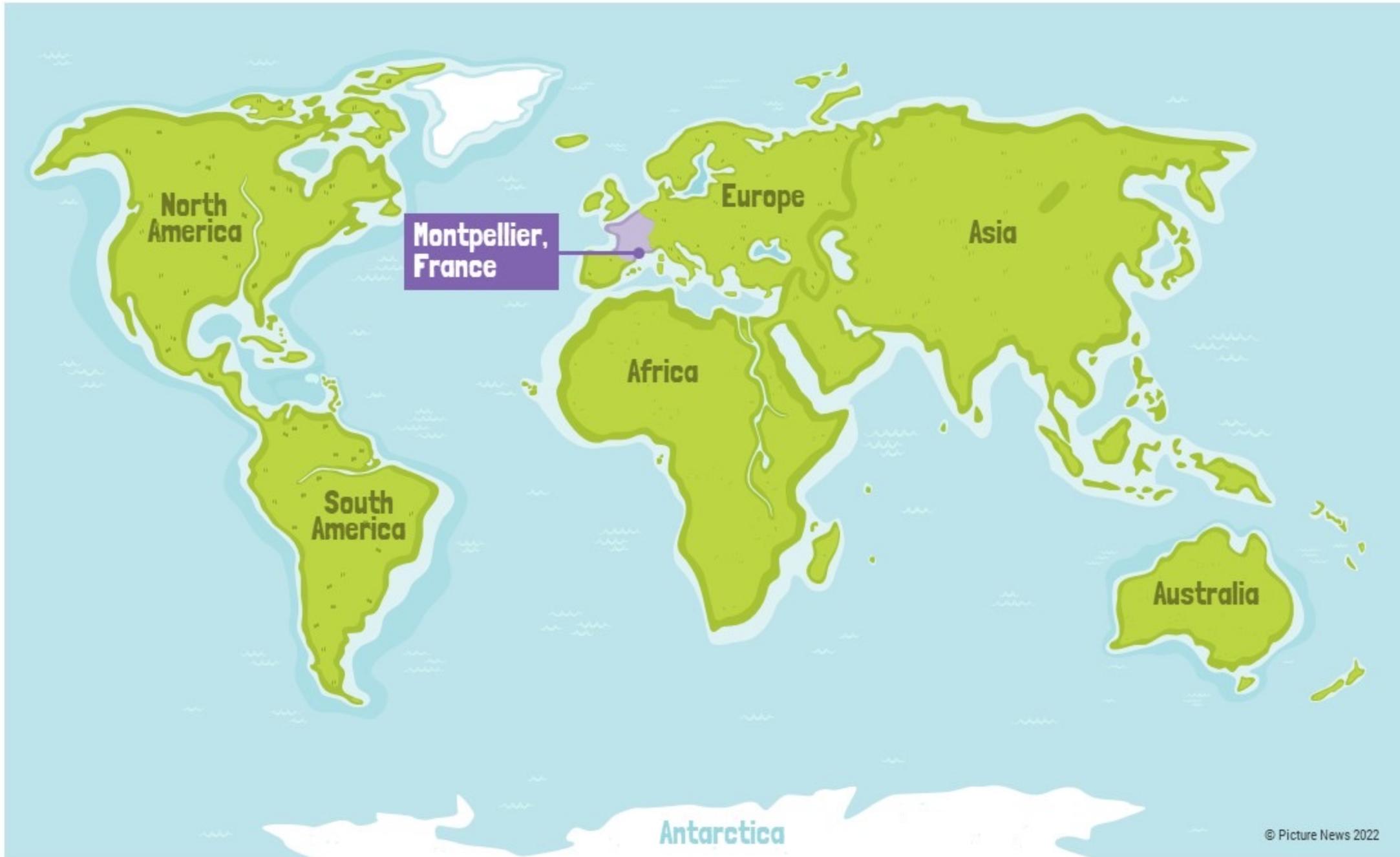


A new study, from the University of Montpellier in France, has found that less attractive species of fish are more likely to be threatened with extinction than their more attractive counterparts as they lack public support. People are more committed to saving more colourful fish such as Nemo (Disney's colourful orange and white striped clownfish), than ensuring the survival of other, duller species. Speaking about the study, senior research scientist, Dr Nicolas Mouquet, said, "We found that less beautiful fishes are those recognised as threatened."

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).  
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).  
This week's Virtual Assembly [here](#).



# This week's story looks at events related to ...



# How does it make me feel?



<b>sad</b>	<b>angry</b>	<b>happy</b>	<b>confused</b>	<b>excited</b>	<b>worried</b>	<b>shocked</b>	<b>afraid</b>
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified



Read through the information below, which explores the study in more detail and shows some of the species voted most and least beautiful.

## How was the study conducted

For the study, University of Montpellier researchers asked 13,000 people to order hundreds of fish from what they thought were the most to the least attractive.

They then used the responses to work out how the most and least attractive species compare to how endangered the fish are.

The scientists found fish listed on the IUCN Red List as 'threatened' had been rated as less beautiful on average.

Fish, which ranked highest, included the brightly coloured queen angelfish, the neon pouting striped cowfish and the 'friendly' looking green snout parrotfish, none of which are currently threatened (all pictured right).

**Pictured right**, examples of fish shown in the study.

**Fish species that were voted the most attractive are shown on the top row, with the least attractive on the bottom.**

### Voted most attractive



### Voted least attractive

Source: Mouquet N et al

**Do you agree with the voters? Would you have found it easy or hard to decide?**



**Look at the scenarios below.**

**For each, think about your appearance: what you would wear, your hair, how you would behave, how you would speak etc.**



**Relaxing at home**



**Playing with friends**



**Attending a wedding**



**A family party**



**Being in a whole school assembly**



**Meeting someone for the first time**

**Do you think your appearance matters more in some of the scenarios than in others? Why?**

**Luke 12:22-23** *Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes."*

The New Testament – The Third Gospel

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

**1 Peter 3:3-4**

DailyVerses.net

New Testament – Letters of Peter

# Reflection



It is estimated that the world has over 8 million different species of plants and animals – all of which are unique and special in their own way. It is important for us to remember that how something looks, is only one part of its story.



How can we be the best we can be for ourselves, others and God's World, if our values are based on appearance only?



## Individual Liberty

Research has shown that some species of fish are more likely to be threatened with extinction as they lack public support. It is important to remember our actions have consequences and we are responsible for them.





# UN Rights of a Child



Our education should help us to protect the environment. Some animals may face extinction unless we take action.

