Scientists have discovered four new species of scale worms. The deep-sea creatures, also called glitter worms due to their shiny scales, live in the depths of the Pacific Ocean.

Scientists from the University of California, San Diego, USA, and Paris-Sorbonne University, France, found the new species living thousands of metres under the sea.

One of the new species has even been called the Elvis scale worm. It gets its name from the 'king of rock' because Elvis Presley was famous for his bright, sequined outfits.

These scale worms were found at Monterey Canyon, California, the Gulf of California, in Mexico, and Costa Rica, a country in Central America.

So, what do we know about scale worms? The scientific name for scale worms is Peinaleopolynoe. It means 'hungry scale worm' in Greek. They're called this because scale worms are found close to their food. It feeds on the bodies of dead creatures, such as whales.

The bright colour of their scales remains a mystery to scientists as they don't understand why these creatures evolved them.

While they may look cute, their behaviour towards other scale worms can be less than friendly. Scientists say that some of their scales were damaged due to fighting between rival worms.

The team of researchers were fascinated by how the scale worms survive in a harsh environment. They're found in areas under the sea where there is very little oxygen.

Animals need oxygen to breathe, but a scale worms gills have evolved so they can survive in this environment. One of the glitter worms was found living near a vent of an underwater volcano.

For the team of scientists, there’s still more to discover and learn about the deep seas.

In a statement on the University of California San Diego’s website, Avery Hatch, one of the researchers, said, "It is hard to believe that the deep sea is still largely unexplored and teeming with mysterious animals waiting to be discovered."

**Glossary**

- **species** Living things with similar characteristics that produce young.
- **evolved** How animals change over a long time.
- **gills** An organ in a sea creature’s body that helps it to breathe.
- **vent** An opening that allows air, gas, or liquid to pass out.
1. Find and copy the two countries the scientists came from.

1. ____________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________

2. Why was one of the new species of scale worm named after Elvis Presley?

3. Scale worms can occasionally be violent. Find one piece of evidence that supports this.

4. “It is hard to believe that the deep sea is still largely unexplored and teeming with mysterious animals waiting to be discovered.”
   Tick the word that is closest in meaning to ‘teeming’.
   ○ discover
   ○ empty
   ○ full of
   ○ hidden

5. Why do you think the deep seas are still ‘largely unexplored’? Explain your answer.

6. Write a summary of the story in 15 words or fewer.