

Saving Nemo **A2**



Schoolchildren in Australia are helping protect the beautiful orange-and-white clownfish, made famous by the film *Finding Nemo*.

In the 2003 animated film, a clownfish called Marlin is trying to find his son. Nemo has been captured. Now he lives in an aquarium in a dentist's office.

The film clearly opposes taking fish from their natural environment. But people saw the beautiful clownfish in the film and wanted them for their home aquariums. More and more clownfish are captured in the wild to become people's pets. That means the clownfish population is in danger.

In 2007, Flinders University in Australia started the Saving Nemo programme. It is easy to breed clownfish in captivity. So, the university started a breeding programme. Then they asked schools to help, so students could learn about the problem.

Help

home (adj) personal, that they have in their home.

the wild (exp) nature, natural environment

breed (v) encourage animals to reproduce.

pet shop (n) a shop where you can buy animals to have as pets



Saving Nemo schools breed clownfish, then they give them to pet shops in exchange for food and equipment for their breeding programme. Eleven-year-old Imogen Everson from Belgian Gardens School in Townsville, explains, "We breed them for people who want clownfish. So you do not have to take them out of the wild." ■