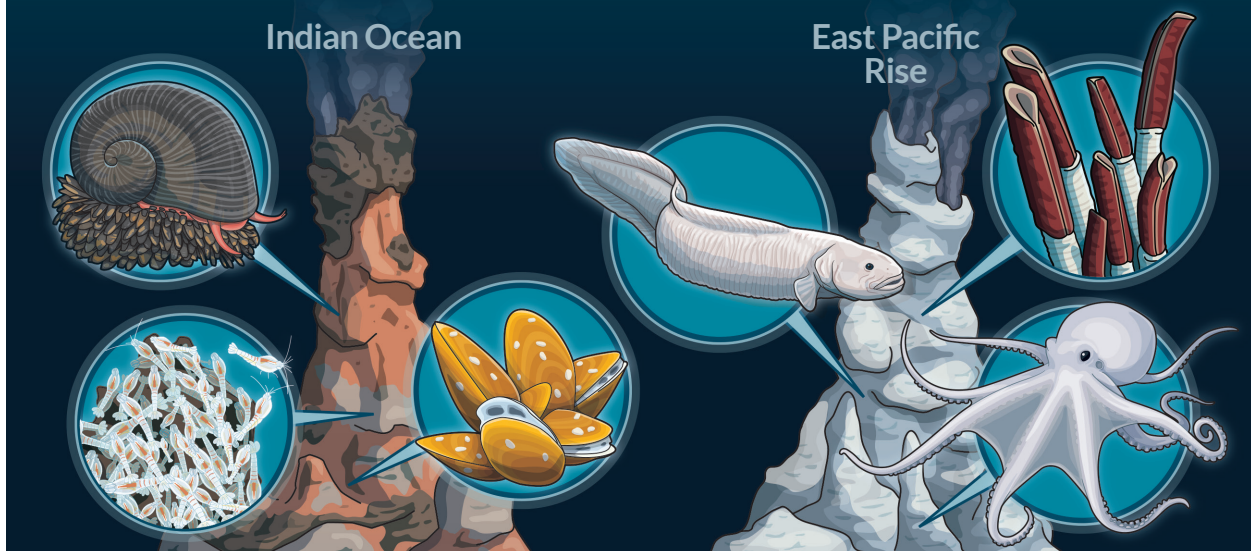


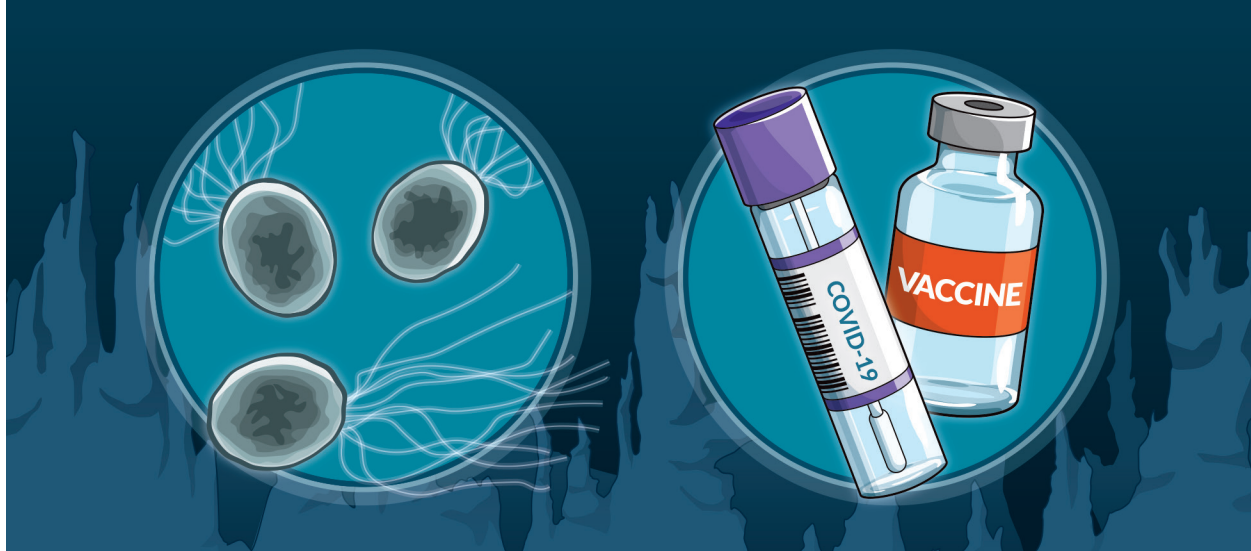
# Why Hydrothermal Vents Are Important—and Need Protection

Deep-ocean habitats, home to dazzling biodiversity, face threats from seabed mining

Hydrothermal vents teem with life, including many species that live nowhere else, not even in other vent fields.\*



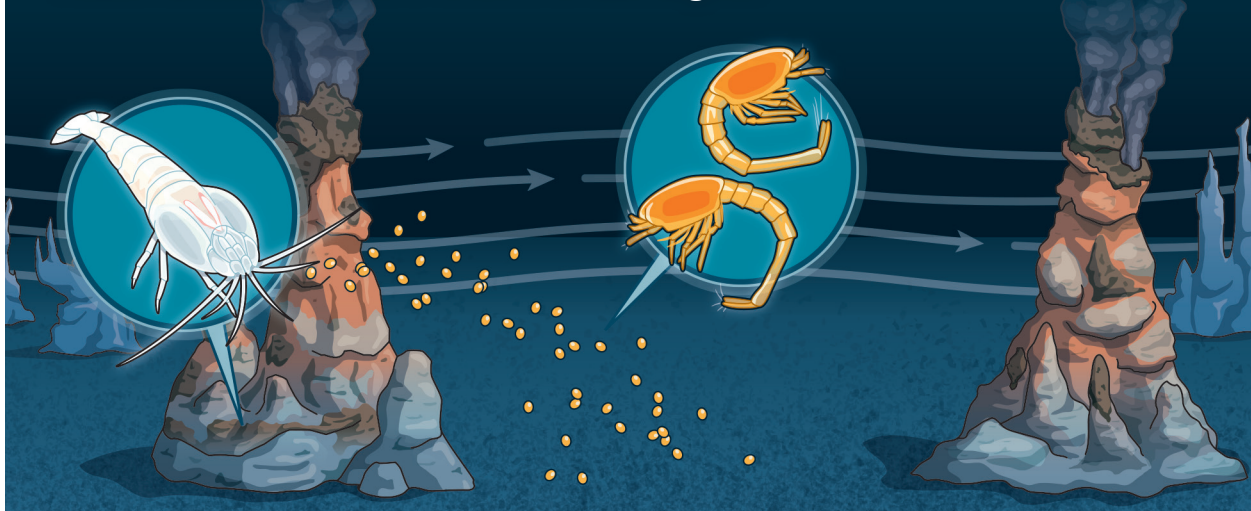
Some single-celled organisms that live on hydrothermal vents have medicinal uses, such as in certain COVID-19 tests.†



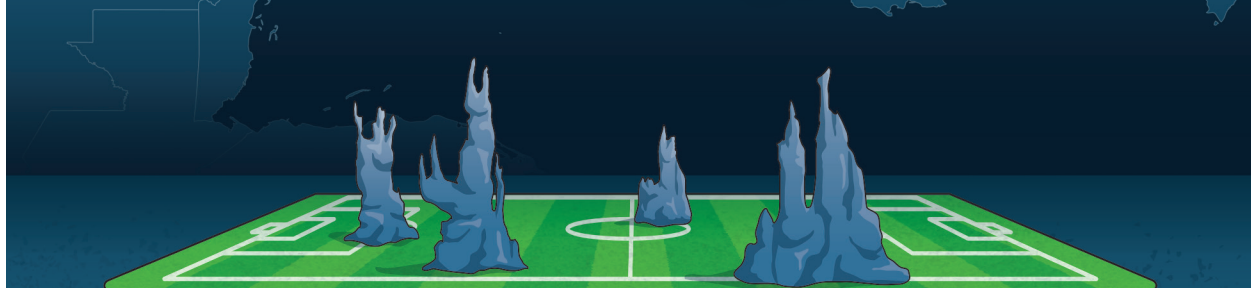
If seabed mining destroys hydrothermal vents, the animals living there—such as the scaly-foot snail—could go extinct, unable to escape to or live in other habitats.‡



Some hydrothermal vent species, such as eyeless shrimp larvae, can drift on currents but may not be able to travel far enough to reach another vent if theirs is damaged.§



Mexico Cuba  
Hydrothermal vent fields can be 1,000 kilometers from their nearest neighbor...||



...and each vent field is small—about the size of a soccer field.#

The combined footprint of all known active hydrothermal vents in the world is less than the size of Manhattan.\*\*



## Sources

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