

Hangin'out Upside Down Animals

Dog Umbrellas And Other Wacky Inventions Secrets Tongue

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Cassiopeia

This jellyfish faces down, and each of its tentacles faces up, towards the sun—the opposite of other jellyfish. The cassiopeia (say: kass-ee-OH-pee-uh) lives in shallow tropical waters. It gets nutrients from algae living on its tentacles and under its body. Returning the favor, the jellyfish gives the algae a sunny place to live and grow. The cassiopeia is also human-friendly. Unlike most jellyfish, it doesn't sting.

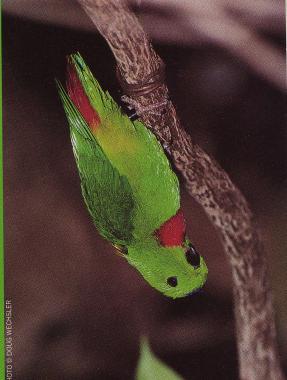
# Blue-Crowned Hanging Parrot

Can you guess the nickname of this parrot that acts like a bat? The answer: bat-parrot. Well, duh!

This strange bird lives on islands north of Australia. It often suspends itself head down when sleeping, eating or playing with other hanging parrots. Some experts think it does this to hide behind thick, leafy trees. When upside down, its colorful feathers are less likely to be spotted by enemies flying overhead. Other scientists think hanging upside down helps the parrots reach their food (nectar and pollen) more easily.







## Colugo

Look, up in the tree! It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's Super Colugo!

Colugos use sharp claws to dangle upside down in the rain forests of Southeast Asia.

This mammal also seems to "fly" from tree to tree. But it actually glides downward from one branch to another. Its secret is a parachute-like skin, which stretches across its body—from neck to fingers to tip of tail.

# Upside-Down Catfish

Most times, when a fish floats on its back, it's sick or dead. But when the upside-down catfish looks that way, you can bet it's healthy and happy.

Found in African rivers, the catfish spends much of its life swimming on its back. The only time it doesn't swim upside down is when it's close to the bottom of the river. Otherwise, it might crash into rocks or plants.

Scientists think it started swimming upside down due to a food shortage near the river bottom. The catfish needed to flip over in order to be able to eat food from the underside of floating plants. Sounds fishy, but it's true.



### Sloth

Sloths are champs at hanging upside down from branches. Found in the forests of Central and South America, these creatures eat, give birth and sleep with their heads pointing south! Even their body hair is "reversed." It's parted along the belly instead of the back, so rain easily runs off the sloth's body.

It's easy for sloths to hang by their arms and legs. They have large, curved claws at the end of each limb. The claws let them grip branches tightly. So it's a breeze for sloths to eat all the leaves, blossoms and fruit they want.

But their curved claws make it a royal pain for sloths to travel on the ground. In fact, when sloths have to crawl on their stomachs, they move forward—verrrry, verrrry slowly.