That is why

Why does the blobfish look so different out of water?

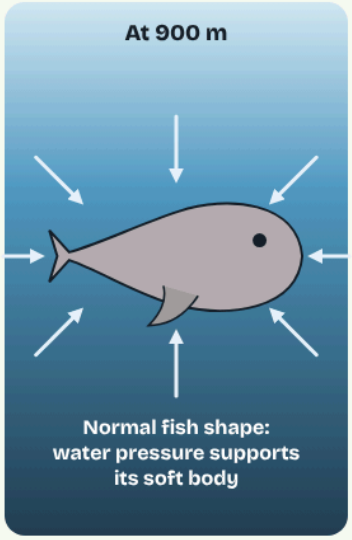
Deep down, water pressure holds its soft body in shape. Hauled to the surface, the support is gone and it sags.

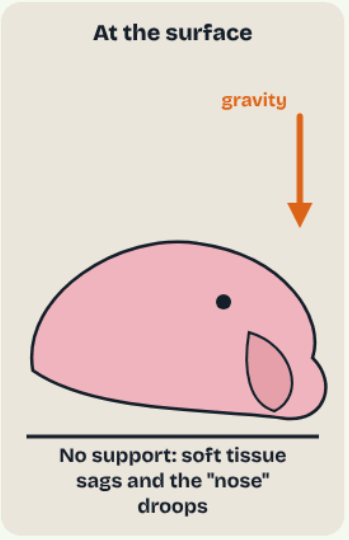
A Where it lives



Deep, cold seabeds in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific.

B Same fish, two places





Like a water balloon

Underwater it holds a neat, round shape because the water presses evenly on every side. Lift it into the air and it sags. The balloon did not change; its surroundings did.

C Built for the deep

1 No swim bladder

It has no gas pocket that could expand on the way up, so it does not burst. It sags.

2 Jelly-like flesh

Its body is slightly less dense than seawater, so it floats just above the seabed with little effort.

3 Saves energy

Food is scarce down there. It waits for small animals to drift past instead of chasing them.

Not ugly, just out of its element.

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