



JOHANNES ALBERTUS SCHLOSSER

“Squelch! Squelch! Squelch!”

Little Johannes squelches through the gooey mud near the Lymington River, filled with wonder about the hidden minerals and tiny creatures around him. Named after his grandfather and the son of a lawyer, he loved exploring the marsh and pondering nature's laws.

As he grew, Johannes began two collections: one of scientific books and another of specimens. He even built shelves for his nearly thousand books. To hold his tiny specimens, he collected jars of all kinds from the village, creating rows of glass containers filled with salt water, each holding dissolved limestone and tiny organisms.

Eventually, Johannes discovered a new creature, which he excitedly shared with his friend, Matthew Maty. He carefully sealed samples in jars and sent them off. Using a borrowed microscope, Matthew created drawings of the new species—can you guess what they were?

Sometimes, a very detailed scientific drawing where you take your time and record all the things you see can help the world understand an entire new species!

And other times, just having the wonder and imagination to look for things where others might not think to look can lead to the discovery in the first place. A puddle of water, some saltwater marshes, a drop from the ocean, or even some pond water can hold a whole microscopic world just waiting to be seen.

Johannes devoted his life to studying creatures in saline habitats, fascinated by the unique ecosystems. He built extensive collections of saltwater specimens before he sadly passed away from scarlet fever.

In 1756, Matthew published a scientific paper describing the creatures as *Artemia salina*, including parts of the letter Johannes had sent to him describing them. That means that today, you are continuing a discovery and adding your own careful thoughts and observations about something that was first named and described over 270 years ago!

When his friends went through his collections, they found descriptions of many more species, They saw he had described the soft shell turtle, giant leaf frog, and royal angelfish! No wonder they always say... if you have a great idea or observation, please write it down!