

DQ 3, September 30, 2015

From Dennis, concerning the specimen in the box at the front of the classroom:

“I found this really cool thing on a beach in Bermuda during our summer holidays! I asked a guy at a local dive shop about it, and he told me that it was a “paper nautilus” but he didn’t know much more about it except that he had heard from someone else that it involved a weird way of making babies. I think he said something about the dad losing an arm in the process! I am now puzzled! I was hoping that you might be able to clear some things up for me!

- (1) I don’t quite get how this could have belonged to a nautilus! I have seen one of those before in the Monterey Bay Aquarium and, except for the shape they don’t appear to be all that similar. Did this really come from a nautilus?
- (2) It sort of looks like it is a shell, but is it really a shell and if not, what is it?
- (3) I am puzzled about the mention of it involving a “weird way of making babies!” What did the guy mean “the dad loses an arm in the process”—what does that have to do with this specimen and making babies?
- (4) How many types of paper nautiluses are out there?
- (5) Is Bermuda the only place where I might find one of these things?”

Due to Dr. Cairns on or before Monday, October 12 at 5:00 pm.