



Whale Shark

The World's Biggest Fish



by Meish Goldish

[Intentionally Left Blank]



Whale Shark

The World's Biggest Fish

by Meish Goldish

Consultant: Jenny Montague
Assistant Curator of Marine Mammals
New England Aquarium
Boston, MA

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover, ©Seapics.com; 2–3, ©Scott Tuason/Image Quest Marine; 4, Kathrin Ayer; 4–5, ©Norbert Wu/Minden Pictures; 6, ©James D. Watt/Image Quest Marine; 7BKG, ©James D. Watt/Image Quest Marine; 8 (inset), ©Kevin Aitken/Peter Arnold; 8–9, ©James D. Watt/Image Quest Marine; 10, ©Peter Parks/Image Quest Marine; 11, ©Flip Nicklin/Minden Pictures; 12, ©Jurgen Freund/Nature Picture Library; 13, ©Kevin Aitken/Peter Arnold; 14–15, ©James D. Watt/Image Quest Marine; 16 (inset), ©Kevin Aitken/Peter Arnold; 16–17, ©Flip Nicklin/Minden Pictures; 18–19, ©Andre Seale/Seapics.com; 20–21, ©Doug Perrine/Seapics.com; 22L, ©Pascal Kobeh/BIOS/Peter Arnold; 22C, ©Kare Telnes/Image Quest Marine; 22R, ©Mike Parry/Minden Pictures; 23TR, ©Kevin Aitken/Peter Arnold; 23BL, ©Norbert Wu/Minden Pictures; 23BR, ©Peter Parks/Image Quest Marine; 23BKG, ©Alstills/Bilderberg/Peter Arnold.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Editorial Development: Nancy Hall, Inc.

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Carousel Research, Inc.: Mary Teresa Giancoli

Design: Otto Carbajal

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Goldish, Meish.

Whale shark : the world's biggest fish / by Meish Goldish.

p. cm. — (SuperSized!)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-397-2 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-397-X (library binding)

1. Whale shark—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL638.95.R4G65 2007

597.3—dc22

2006030597

Copyright © 2007 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved.

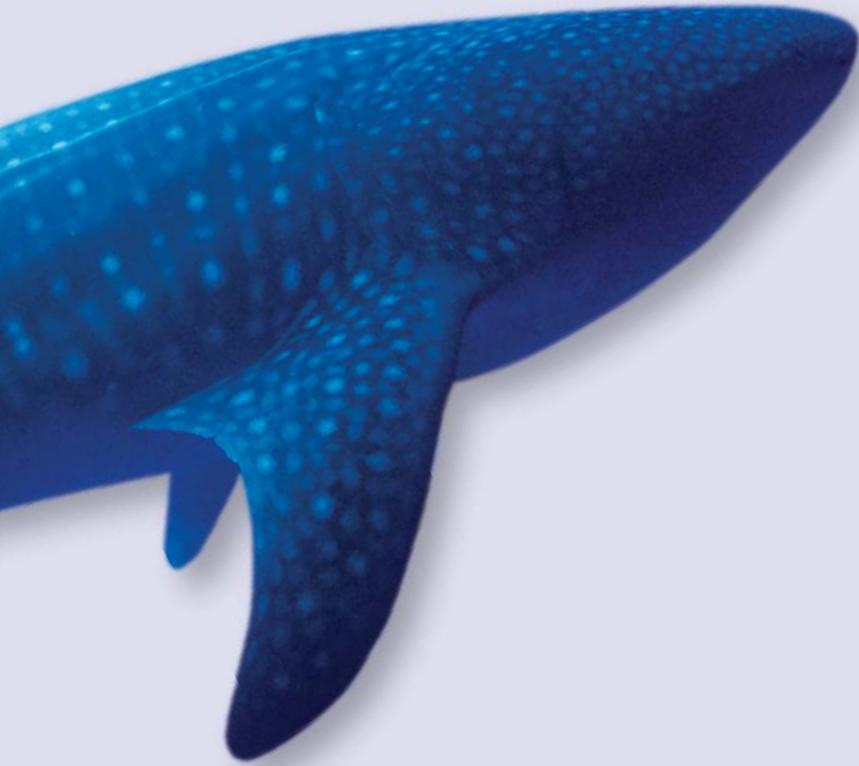
No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



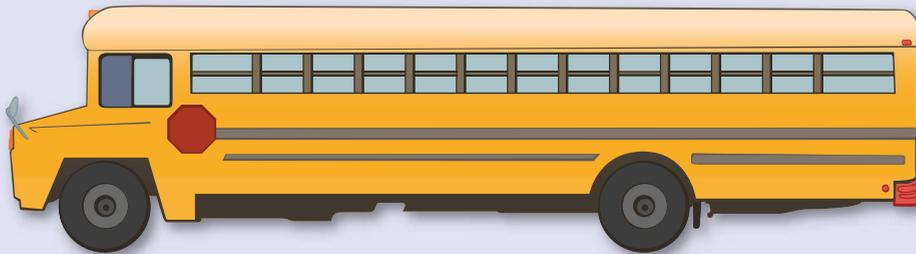
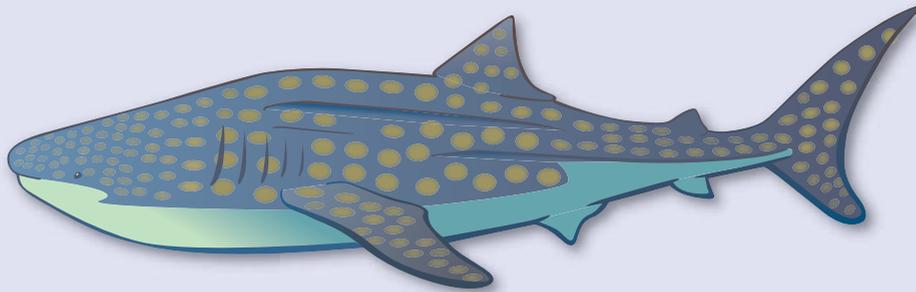
Contents



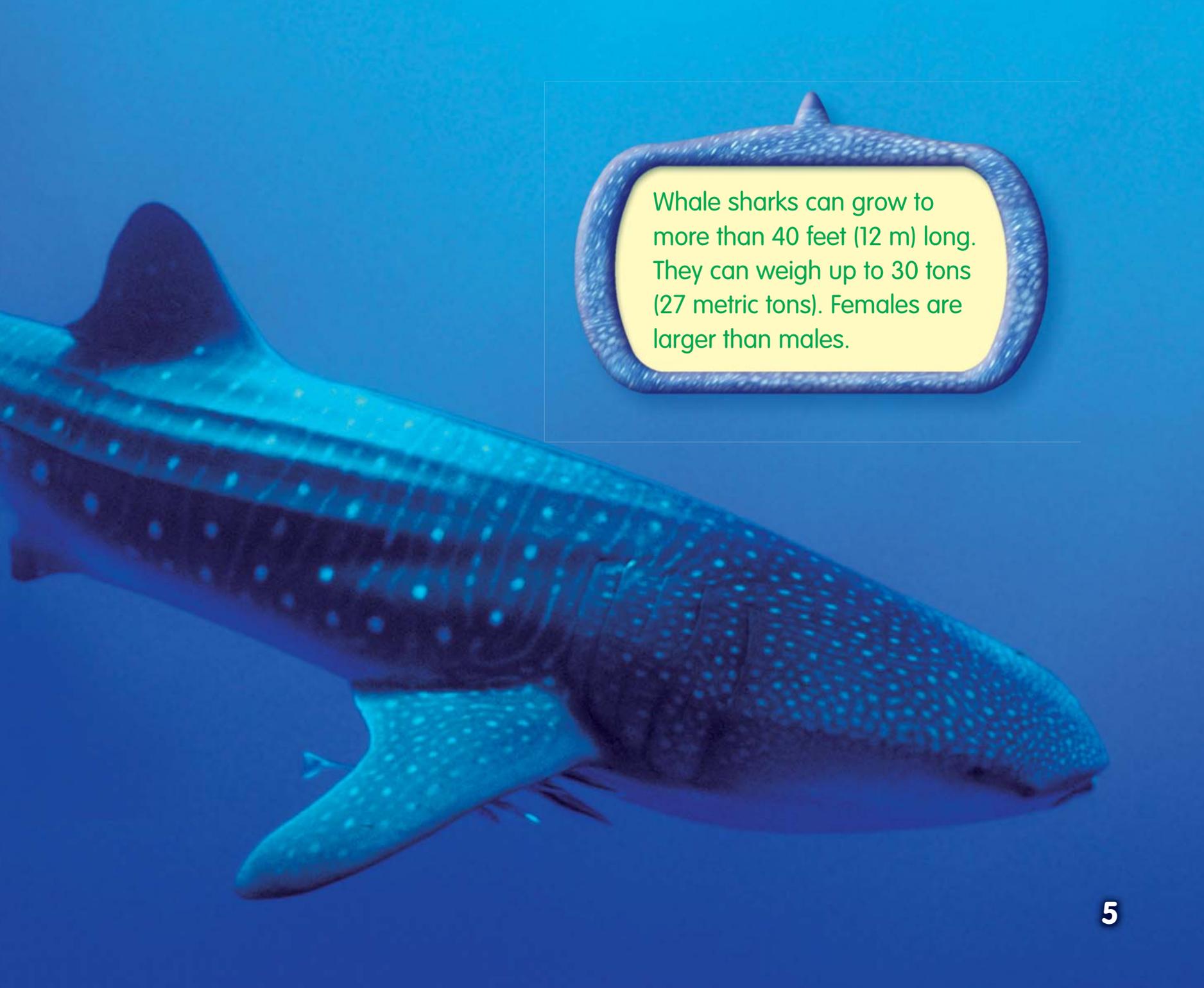
Giants of the Sea	4
Warm-water Homes	6
Big Mouth	8
Mealtime	10
Water In, Water Out	12
Life in the Sea	14
A Special Swimmer	16
Baby Sharks	18
An Old Friend	20
More Big Fish	22
Glossary	23
Index	24
Read More	24
Learn More Online	24

Giants of the Sea

The whale shark is the biggest fish in the world.



A whale shark is about as long as a school bus.



Whale sharks can grow to more than 40 feet (12 m) long. They can weigh up to 30 tons (27 metric tons). Females are larger than males.

Warm-water Homes

Whale sharks swim in warm oceans near the **equator**.

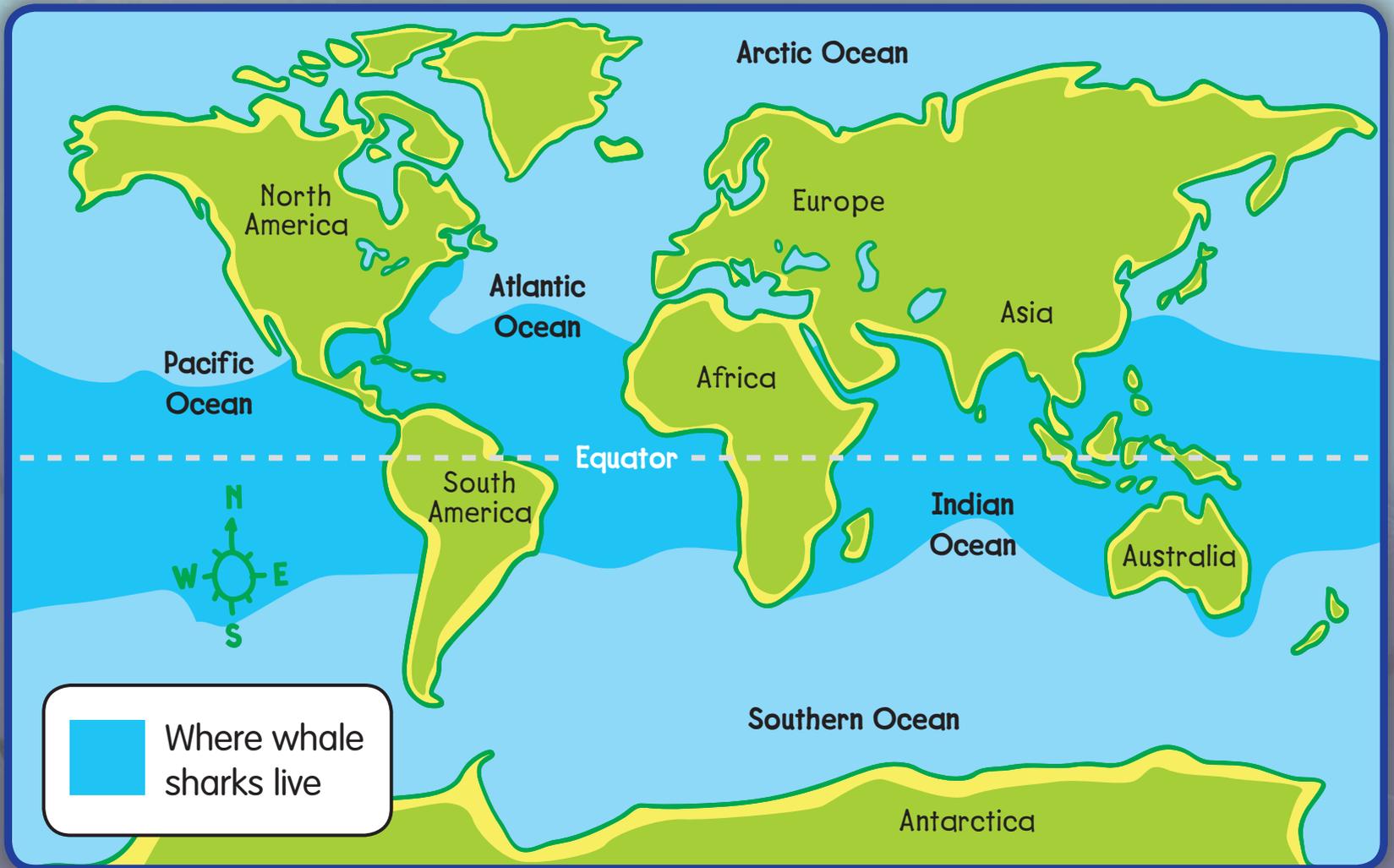
These big sharks can dive deep down in the ocean.

Yet they also swim near the top of the water.



Whale sharks can be bigger than many kinds of whales.

Whale Sharks in the Wild



Index

- baby whale sharks** 18–19
basking shark 17, 22
eggs 18
equator 6–7
fins 16, 22
floating 16–17
food 8, 10–11, 12
gill slits 12–13
great white shark 22
homes 6–7
life span 20
mammals 22
mouth 8–9, 10
oarfish 22
plankton 10
size 4–5, 6, 8–9, 18, 22
speed 14–15
swimming 6, 14–15, 16
teeth 12
weight 5

Read More

Crossingham, John, and Bobbie Kalman. *The Life Cycle of a Shark*. New York: Crabtree Publishing (2005).

Llewellyn, Claire. *The Best Book of Sharks*. Boston, MA: Kingfisher (2005).

Welsbacher, Anne. *Whale Sharks*. Minneapolis, MN: Capstone Press (1995).

Learn More Online

To learn more about whale sharks, visit www.bearportpublishing.com/SuperSized

[Intentionally Left Blank]



Whale Shark

The World's Biggest Fish

It's no surprise that a whale shark is bigger than many kinds of whales. After all, the giant shark got its name because of its huge size. Some whale sharks grow to be more than 40 feet (12 m) long—about as long as a school bus.

Look inside to find out how the world's biggest fish eats the tiniest food in the sea. Also discover where it lives and how it is born.

African Elephant

The World's Biggest Land Mammal

Blue Whale

The World's Biggest Mammal

Chinese Giant Salamander

The World's Biggest Amphibian

Giraffe

The World's Tallest Mammal

Goliath Beetle

One of the World's Heaviest Insects

Goliath Bird-Eating Tarantula

The World's Biggest Spider

Great Bustard

The World's Heaviest Flying Bird

Green Anaconda

The World's Heaviest Snake

Komodo Dragon

The World's Biggest Lizard

Leatherback Turtle

The World's Heaviest Reptile

Ostrich

The World's Biggest Bird

Queen Alexandra's Birdwing

The World's Largest Butterfly

Saltwater Crocodile

The World's Biggest Reptile

Whale Shark

The World's Biggest Fish

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-10: 1-59716-397-X

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-397-2



9 781597 163972