

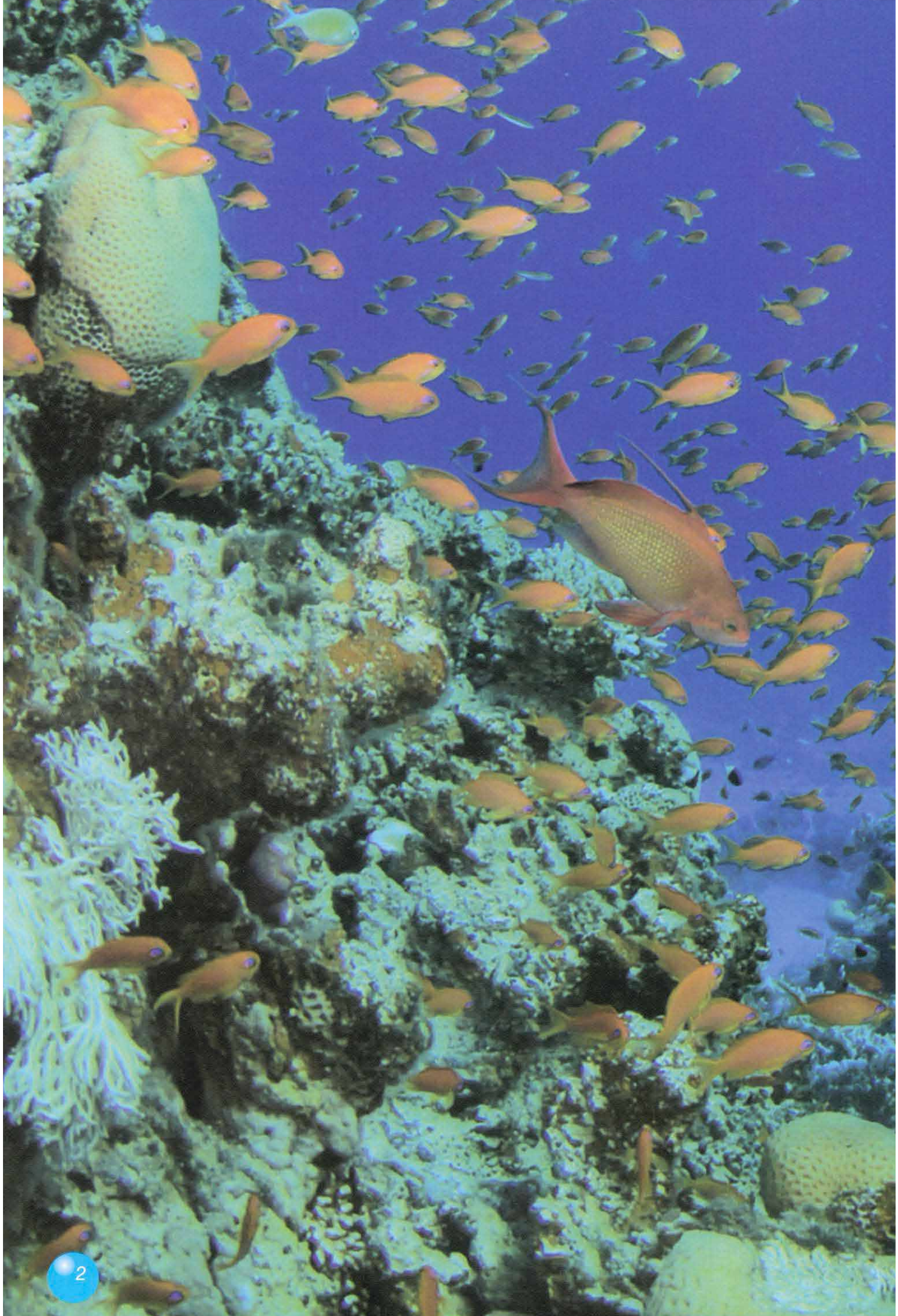


THE TIGER Shark

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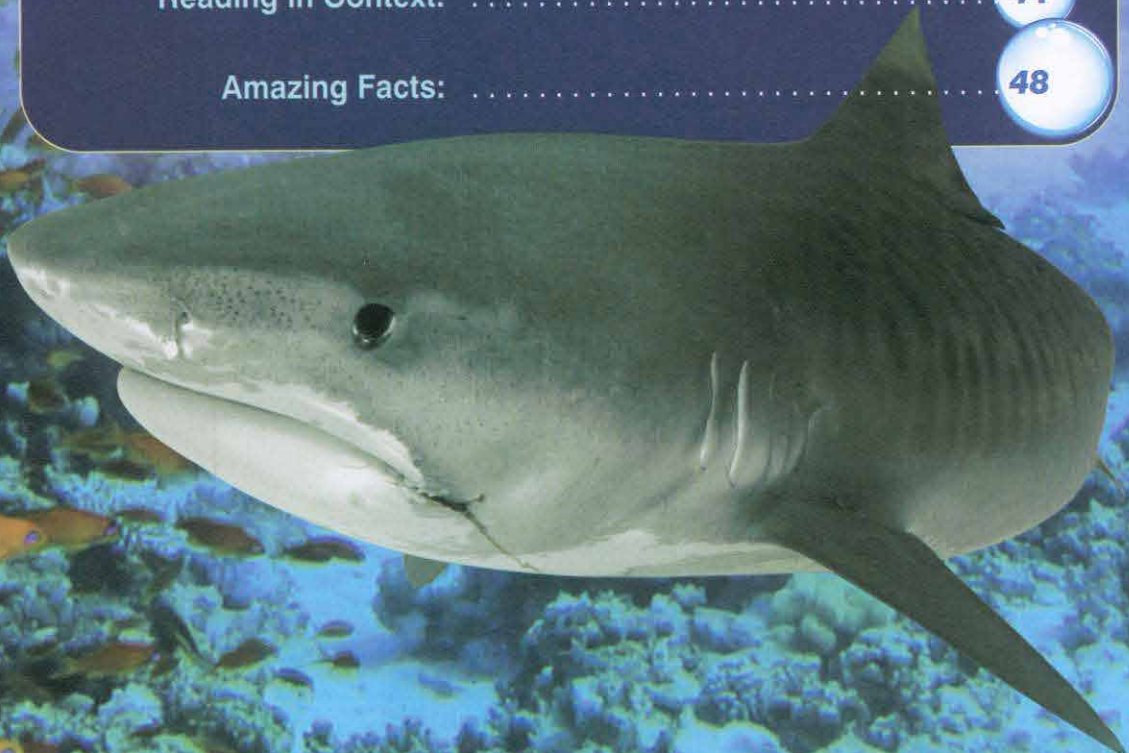


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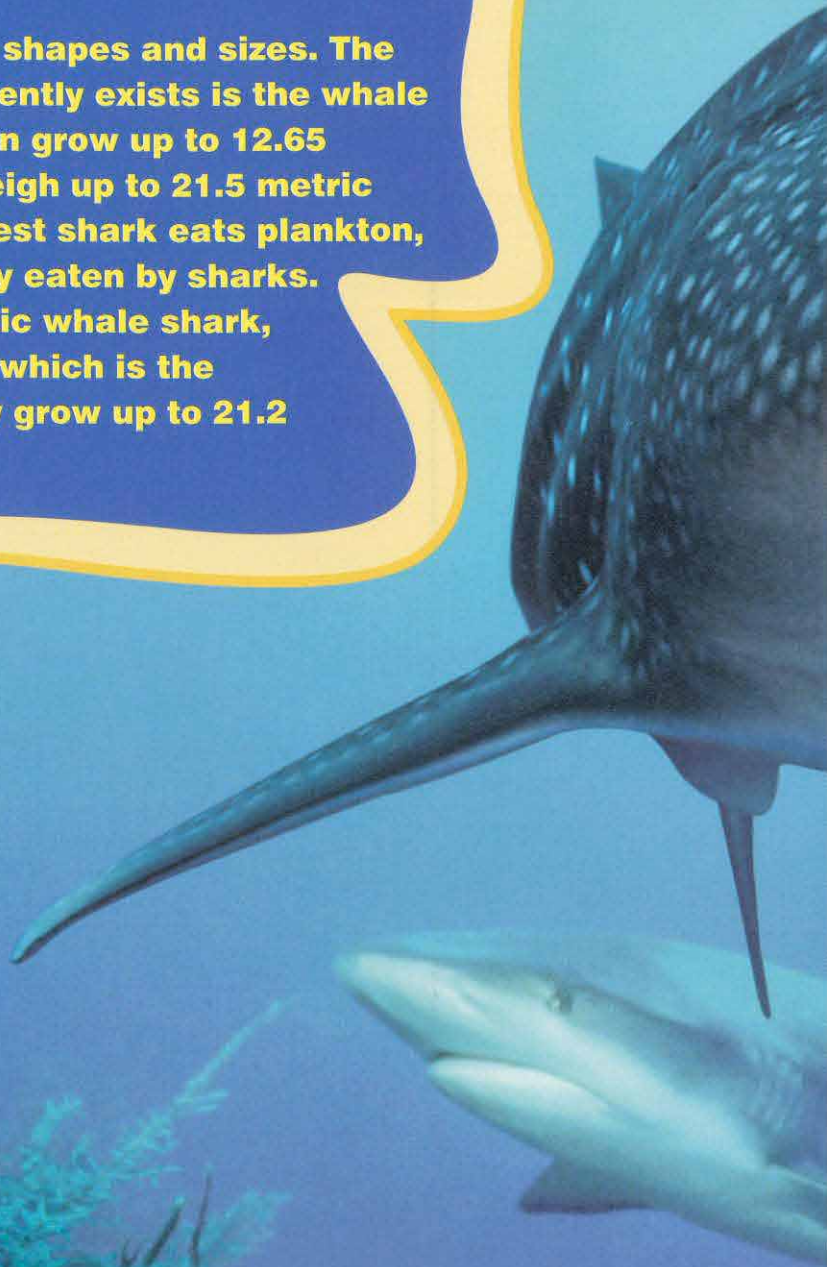
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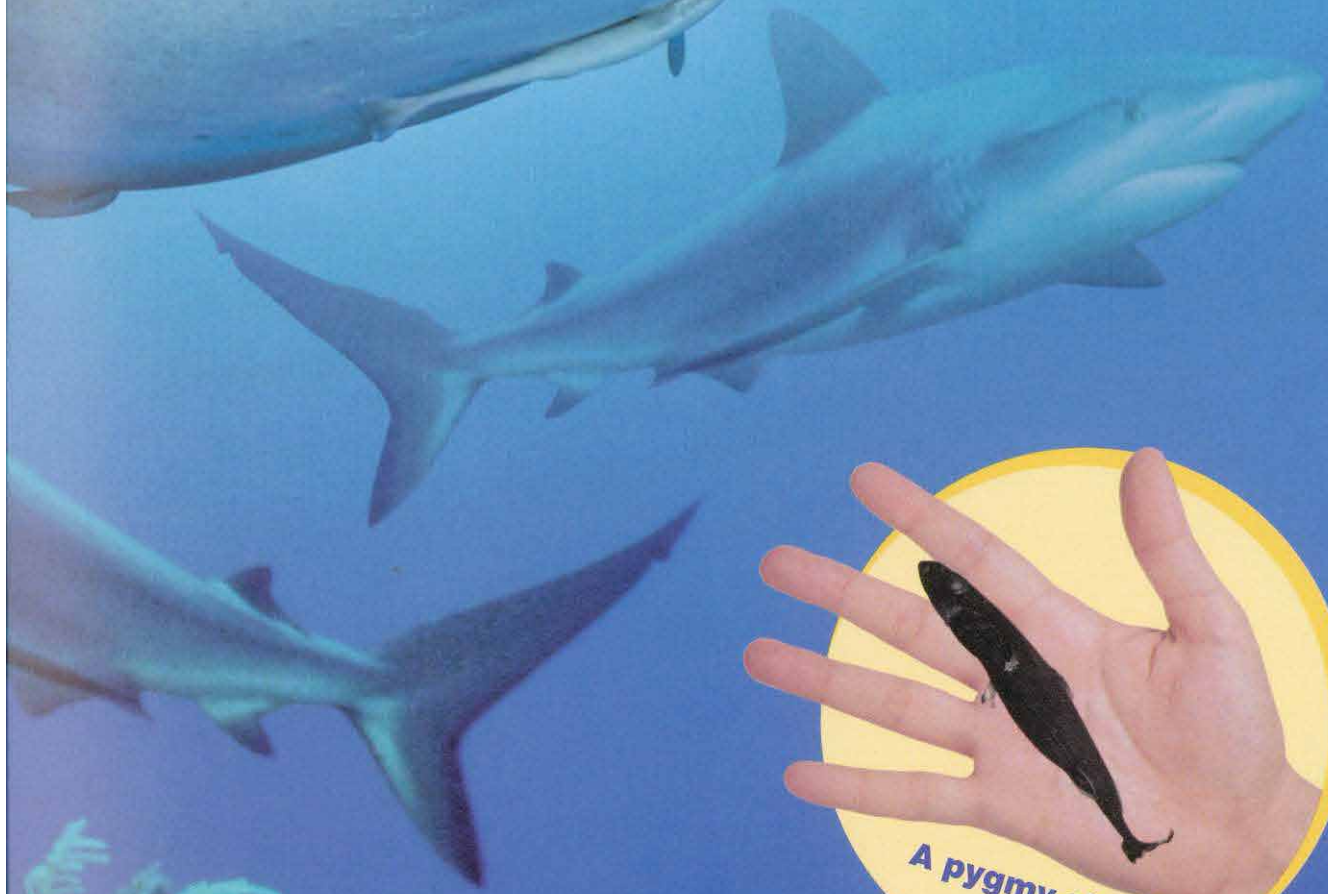
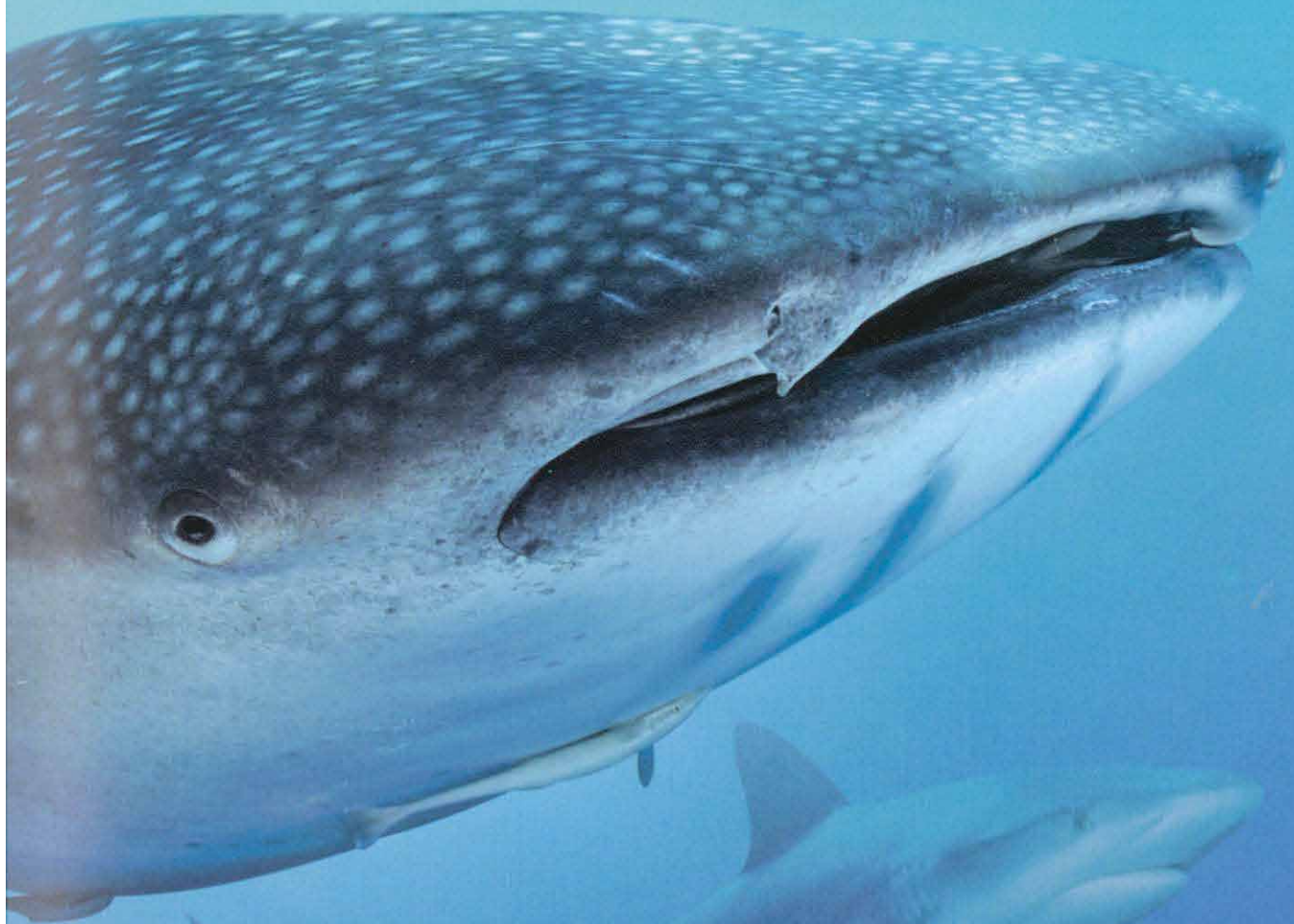
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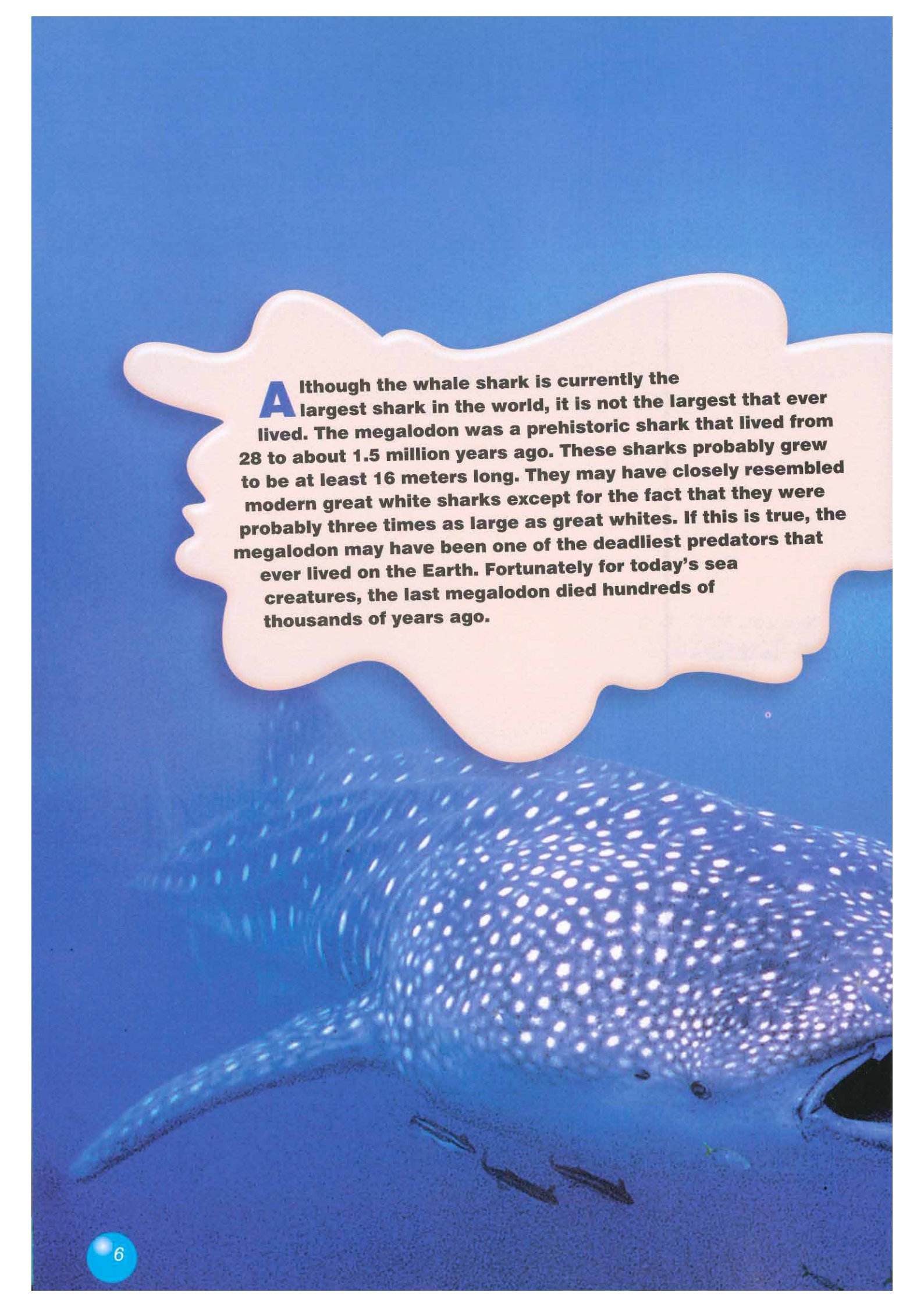
Sharks

Sharks come in many shapes and sizes. The largest shark that currently exists is the whale shark. Whale sharks can grow up to 12.65 meters long, and can weigh up to 21.5 metric tons. Ironically, the largest shark eats plankton, the smallest form of prey eaten by sharks. In contrast to the gigantic whale shark, the dwarf lanternshark, which is the smallest shark, can only grow up to 21.2 centimeters.

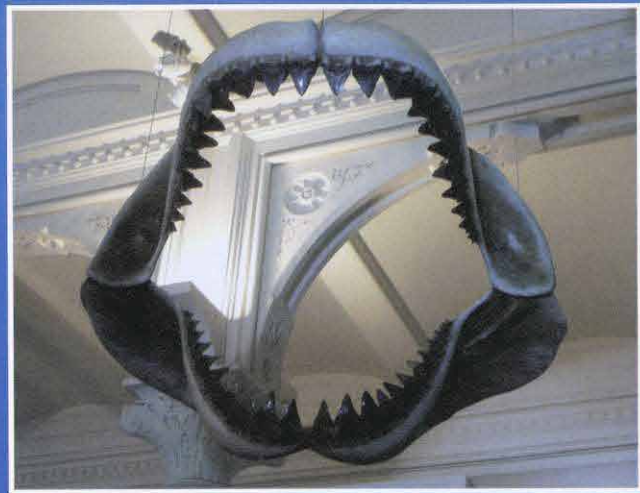




A pygmy shark



Although the whale shark is currently the largest shark in the world, it is not the largest that ever lived. The megalodon was a prehistoric shark that lived from 28 to about 1.5 million years ago. These sharks probably grew to be at least 16 meters long. They may have closely resembled modern great white sharks except for the fact that they were probably three times as large as great whites. If this is true, the megalodon may have been one of the deadliest predators that ever lived on the Earth. Fortunately for today's sea creatures, the last megalodon died hundreds of thousands of years ago.



Megalodon Shark Jaws
*American Museum of Natural History,
New York City, United States*

Sharks/The Tiger Shark



Word Bank

(pp. 4-5)

come in (phr v) = to have certain features

currently (adv) = at present

metric ton (n) = a unit for measuring weight, equal to 1,000 kilograms

plankton (n) = very small plants and animals which live in water and fish feed on

gigantic (adj) = huge

dwarf (adj) = very small

(pp. 6-7)

prehistoric (adj) = existing before the start of written records

closely resemble (phr) = to be very similar to sb or sth

deadly (adj) = causing death

predator (n) = an animal that kills and feeds on other animals

sea creature (phr) = any living thing that lives in water

(pp. 8-9)

apex predator (phr) = a predator at the top of the food chain

the food chain (n) = a series of living things each one eating the one below it in the series

instance (n) = occasion

species (n) = kind, type

adaptation (n) = the act of changing to fit in a new environment

resemblance (n) = similarity

lethal (adj) = deadly

garbage can (n) = a container with a lid used for putting rubbish in

trash (n) = rubbish

stomach (n) = the organ in the body where food is digested

striped pattern (phr) = a design of regularly repeated lines

back (n) = part of the body that is opposite to the front

striping (n) = arrangement of stripes

fade away (v) = to gradually become less bright

age (v) = to get older

vary (v) = to differ, range

shade (n) = type of a particular color

name after (v) = to give sb or sth the same name as sb or sth else

stalk prey (phr) = to follow an animal in order to attack and kill it

primarily (adv) = mainly

camouflage (n) = the way an animal's color makes it difficult to see

blend in (v) = to be very similar to the surroundings and not easily noticeable

ocean floor (phr) = the bottom of the sea

surface (n) = top layer

reef (n) = a raised area of rocks or sand near the surface of the sea

Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Decide which of the following sentences are *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 There is a wide variety of sharks.
- 2 It comes as a surprise that the largest shark eats plankton.
- 3 Prehistoric sharks resembled great white sharks in size.
- 4 Apex predators are rarely threatened by other sea creatures.
- 5 Tiger sharks look like real tigers.
- 6 Tiger sharks use their appearance as camouflage.
- 7 How dark a tiger shark's striping is depends on its size.

b) Listen, read and check.

While-Reading activities

2 Fill in: *closely resembled*, *garbage cans*, *striped pattern*, *sea creatures*, *metric tons*, *apex predators*.

- 1 The whale shark, the current largest shark species, can weigh up to 21.5
- 2 Megalodons may have modern great white sharks.
- 3 The megalodon would be a deadly predator for today's
- 4 The tiger shark, the great white and the hammerhead are all, being at the top of their food chains.
- 5 Tiger sharks are known as the ocean's, as they will eat almost anything.
- 6 Tiger sharks get their name from the running along their backs.

