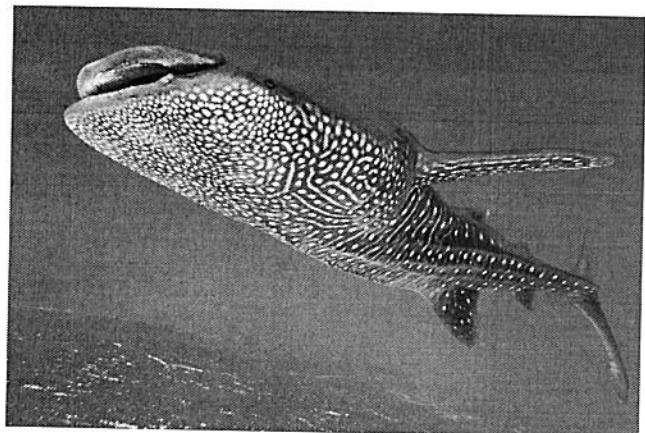


Name: _____

The World's Largest Fish

By Guy Bellarant

Did you know the largest fish in the world is a gentle shark with teeth so small it cannot use them to eat? This fish is the whale shark. An adult whale shark averages 25 feet in length. Some reach 40 feet or more. That's as big as a full-sized school bus and twice as big as a great white shark! How can a shark grow so large if it

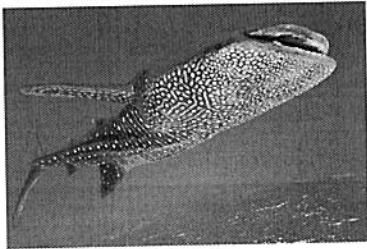


doesn't use its teeth to eat? It filter feeds! This means it strains food from the water through a kind of filter in its mouth. Another giant filter-feeder is the blue whale, but the whale shark filter feeds slightly differently than the blue whale. A blue whale filters food through brush-like plates called baleen. The whale shark doesn't have baleen, but it does have gills. The whale shark's gills are extra special. They have bristly sections called gill rakers. As the whale shark swims through the ocean, it sucks water, tiny plants, and microscopic animals called plankton into its five-foot wide mouth. When the shark closes its mouth, the water passes over its gills and back into the sea. However, the gill rakers catch and filter out the plankton. The shark swallows this plankton. The shark's huge mouth also catches and swallows other small animals, including fish, shrimp, and squid. The whale shark's gills do more than catch plankton. Like the gills of other fish, whale shark gills absorb dissolved oxygen from the water. This oxygen passes into the gills' blood vessels. The heart then pumps this oxygen-rich blood to other parts of the body. Another cool thing about the whale shark is the spots on its body. Each whale shark has a unique spot pattern. Scientists studying whale sharks have used this to help tell one whale shark from another.

Did you know? Some people go diving with whale sharks because of their gentle nature. Would YOU go diving with a whale shark?

The World's Largest Fish

By Guy Bellarantii



1. Based on the information you learned about whale sharks in the article, which two groups does a whale shark belong to?

- a. fish and invertebrate
- b. fish and vertebrate
- c. mammal and invertebrate
- d. mammal and vertebrate

2. According to the article, a whale shark is a filter feeder just like which other large ocean animal? _____

3. How does a whale shark's gills help it with filter feeding? _____

4. The four animals in the box are mentioned in the article. On the lines below, rewrite the animal names in order from smallest to largest.

great white shark	whale shark	plankton	shrimp
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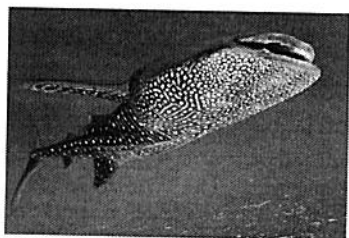
5. Based on your understanding of what you read in the article, what do all the following traits have in common?

- human fingerprints
- leopard spots
- whale shark markings

Name: _____

The World's Largest Fish

By Guy Bellera!!!



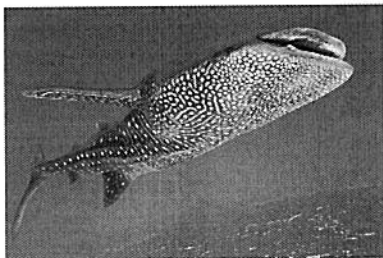
Match each vocabulary word from the reading passage with the correct definition.

- | | | |
|-------|------------------|--|
| _____ | 1. gentle | a. take in or soak up something |
| _____ | 2. filter | b. microscopic organisms that float in the sea, which many larger animals depend on for food |
| _____ | 3. unique | c. tubes in the body that carry blood to the organs and tissues |
| _____ | 4. plankton | d. fully grown; mature |
| _____ | 5. brittly | e. distinctive; special |
| _____ | 6. absorb | f. causes food to move down the throat |
| _____ | 7. oxygen | g. mild-mannered, kind, or tender |
| _____ | 8. blood vessels | h. having a rough and prickly texture |
| _____ | 9. swallows | i. a chemical element humans and animals need to breathe in order to survive |
| _____ | 10. adult | j. strain out unwanted material |

Name: _____

The World's Largest Fish

By Guy Bellarant!



In the article, "The World's Largest Fish," you learned that whale sharks have a surprisingly gentle nature, despite their huge size and their classification as a shark.

Pretend you've won an exclusive snorkeling trip, where you and a friend are able to swim with whale sharks. On the lines below, describe what you think this experience would be like. Include how you would feel, what you would do, and who you would take with you.

Lined writing area for student response.

Wilma Rudolph, Olympic Star

Wilma Rudolph was born in Tennessee in 1940. She was the twentieth of twenty-two children in a poor but loving African American family. Because she was born two months early, the doctor doubted she would live. She survived but was ill with a variety of sicknesses throughout her childhood. After recovering from scarlet fever and pneumonia, at age four she contracted polio, a virus that at the time killed thousands of people every year. The polio caused Wilma to lose the use of her left leg, and doctors doubted she would ever be able to walk again without the help of metal leg braces.

Wilma proved them wrong. She grew strong enough to discard the leg braces and kept on moving. She grew to be five feet, eleven inches tall, decided to pursue basketball, and became the team's star. In one game, she set a record of forty-nine points. Her coach gave her the nickname "Skeeter" because she buzzed around like a mosquito, constantly asking questions and begging to be put in the game.

When she was in the eighth grade, Wilma was asked to join the high school track team where she developed her running skills. She did not immediately impress people, however; at one track meet she lost every race. The next year, Ed Temple, the track coach at Tennessee State University, saw her run and thought she had talent. He invited her to his summer camp for track athletes, and the next fall, she attended daily practices at the college while still in high school.

After all this hard work, Wilma made the 1956 Olympic team at age sixteen. She did not place in the 200-meter dash event, but she earned a bronze medal as part of the 400-meter relay team.

The following year, Wilma had a baby and many people thought she would never participate in track again, yet she went on to attend Tennessee State University and joined the track team there. With intense training, she secured a place on the 1960 Olympic team. Along with three of her college teammates, she headed to Rome, Italy, for the competition.

At the 1960 Olympics, Wilma easily won the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes. Her team was trailing in the 400-meter relay when Wilma's turn came, but she pulled ahead of the leaders and ended up in first place. She became the first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field at one Olympics. This performance earned her a new nickname: "the fastest woman in the world."

At that time, Olympic stars made little money from endorsements the way they do now, so Wilma found a job teaching at her own former elementary school. She later worked in sports and eventually started an organization to train young athletes. "I tell them that the most important aspect is to be yourself and have confidence in yourself," she said. "I remind them that triumph can't be had without the struggle." Cheerful and modest, Wilma was surrounded by fans wherever she went.

Perhaps her early struggles gave Wilma her competitive spirit, or maybe being confined in childhood gave her the urge to keep moving. "I don't know why I run so fast," she once said, adding, "I just run." In fact, she ran her way into the history books and inspired generations of young athletes along the way.

Questions

1. What is the main idea of the article?

2. How is the article structured?

3. Wilma Rudolph said, "Triumph can't be had without the struggle." What does this mean?

4. What are some ways that Wilma Rudolph is an inspiration?

Cursive Writing Worksheets: Sentences

Write the sentences:

A penny saved is a penny earned.

It's fun to do the impossible.

The truth is the strongest argument.