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## A Pacific Wasteland

By Elizabeth L.

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Half-way between Hawaii and California, a garbage patch three times the size of France is full of plastic. It ends up there because we purposely dump our trash into the ocean and sometimes, the storm drains bring it there. It is nicknamed the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, or the GPGP. No matter how the garbage got there, it's a problem for marine life and for us.

Most of the trash is plastic or cigarettes and lighters, which is a problem because instead of breaking down into simpler chemicals, plas-

tic breaks down into smaller pieces. The smaller the plastic, the bigger the problem. Let's say some plankton eat plastic. Then fish eat the plankton. We may eat the fish that have eaten the plankton that have eaten the plastic.

Multiple people are trying to clean up the GPGP. Team SEAPLEX is one team out there. They discovered a squid dead with plastic in its stomach.

Fatimah R., a fellow reporter, said that this is sad. She believes we should just stop using plastic bags and

only use wooden utensils.

Peter L., another reporter agrees. "We should stop throwing garbage into the ocean!" he exclaims.

Otters, turtles, fish, and seals are only a few animals affected by this garbage wasteland. You can help by recycling, using reusable bags and lunch boxes. You can help clean your local beach.

The ocean is in trouble and it is our job to fix it. If you help save the ocean, you help save the world! If we take little steps, we can save the marine.



<https://www.stuff.co.nz/world/south-pacific/92663471/remote-uninhabited-south-pacific-island-becomes-a-plastic-wasteland>



## CMA KIDS NEWS REPORTERS



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Do the WRITE Thing

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## World of Jellies

By Athena K.

Some may ask, what do Jellyfish eat? Many may not know that Jellyfish eat Zooplankton, small fish, and sometimes even other Jellyfish.

According to the book *Jellyfish Inside Out*, by Michelle Mckenzie, Jellyfish use nematocysts, which are cells in the tentacles of Jellyfish, that can shoot out threads to fight off predators or catch their prey.

In *Jellyfish Inside Out*,

It states that, “the nematocysts are triggered by the touch of a passing fish or plankton.” These methods for eating, along with how Jellyfish reproduce and their gender differences, help the Jellyfish survive against the struggles they face in the ocean.

In order to reproduce, *Jellyfish Inside out* explains that at the right time, sperm is released by the male jellyfish and eggs are released by the females.

One of the gender differences between the jellyfish is that males release the sperm, and females release the eggs. Then, the cells mix together in the water of the ocean. “Once the eggs are fertilized, they form into tiny slipper shaped creatures, called Panulae,” the book states. Afterwards, the Panulae attach to rocks and go through asexual reproduction. Later, they will grow into adult jellyfish.



<https://animals.howstuffworks.com/marine-life/jellyfish-venom.htm>

## Great White Sharks

By Chloe N.

Did you know that a great white shark weighs more than 2.2 tons and can grow up to 20 feet long?

Great white sharks usually eat humans because they mistake them for seals. They don't usually eat humans, instead they enjoy eating seals, fish, and sea lions. They can swim about 15 miles per hour.

The great white has big teeth for eating and big foods such as sea lions. In fact, people dis-

covered a 45 kg sea lion in a great white shark's stomach! That is why the great white shark is one of the biggest sharks in the world. A great white shark can weigh 1,500 – 2,400 lbs

An interesting fact is that the great white shark's skin is all cartilage.

The great white shark is related to the mako, thresher, and porbeagle sharks. A trait that they share is that they are all warm-blooded. Having warm blood allows the to



<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/05/15/great-white-shark-cabot-on-move-off-delaware/3682985002/>

move fast because the muscles get warm. Because they have warm blood, they can catch fast prey

like sea lions.

In conclusion the great white shark is a very interesting animal.

## Awesome Facts about Lobsters

By Cyrus C.



<https://www.animalsaustralia.org/features/6-incredible-lobster-facts.php>

**L**obsters have been on the earth for a long time. They can live in different ecosystems and temperatures. They can grow to different sizes; however, it depends on the different species.

Lobsters are nocturnal, meaning they search for fresh food at night, which includes fish, clams, mus-

sels, crab, and sea urchins. They live in burrows in the ocean floor.

Lobsters live in the Pacific Ocean, and they can grow up to 30 cm. They can live to be one hundred years old. American lobsters have claws.

Spiny lobsters don't have any claws, but the spines on their backs can

hurt you. Crawfish and crayfish are spiny lobsters. They are found in warm oceans.

The lobster is in a shell, and the shell doesn't grow, so the lobster sheds the shell and grows another one as it grows in size. This is called molting. Soft-shelled lobsters have just molted.

## Wonders of Octopuses

By Zoe K.



<https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/537687643003340096/>

**D**id you know octopuses can turn transparent so you can see through them? According to *Tentacles*, by James Martin, this fact, along with many others, helps octopuses stay camouflaged in order to escape predators. The Great Pacific Octopus uses this unique skill and many others in order to survive.

In order to eat, they also have razor sharp beaks that help them easily eat their food. Octopuses also

have tentacles that help them capture their prey. Octopuses eat with a very sharp beak in the middle of their tentacles and use them to crush the skulls of their prey so that they can eat them.

This animal also has a mantle, which is a big sack of skin that contains their brain. Their eyes are located under their mantle.

There are also some differences between male and female octopuses. In

order to reproduce, the male will give some pods of sperm to the female, and then the females will lay their eggs. Octopuses need to reproduce in order to create new generations of the species. Without it, octopuses would go extinct.

Everyone should learn about octopuses, as it is important to explore new things and be aware of amazing animals like the octopus.

## Red Octopus

By Peter L.



<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animal-guide/octopuses-and-kin/giant-pacific-octopus>

**T**he red octopus lives usually lives in the Pacific Ocean. They are usually reddish brown but can change to any color due to their ability to camouflage.

A red octopus usually lives for two years, and they mate in the winter time. The red octopus is very interesting, because it has three hearts. Each heart has a different function.

Although these animals may seem cool, it is best to not touch them since they have sharp beaks that stab you and will spit venom into your wounds.

## Sheep Crabs: What are they?

By Kevin H.

With barnacles and algae on their body, these creatures are awesome masters of camouflage. What kind of animal is this? It's a sheep crab! It's scientific name is *Loxorhynchus grandis*, and it is part of the Malacostraca class. What a big name! It also makes its habitat in reefs and pilings.

What do sheep crabs eat? They eat dwelling organisms at the bottom of the ocean. Living or dead, it will eat them all. They are large and slow moving, so it has no choice but to crawl along the ocean floor. How big are they? Males can grow up to 6.5 inches, while females can grow up to 4.5 inches.

These creatures can live at least four years. They are also related to decorator crabs and Dungeness crabs. One fact is that they can lay up from 125,000 up to 500,000 eggs per batch. That's a lot of eggs for one crab!

These are very interesting and amazing creatures, don't you think?



<http://friendsoflajollashores.com/marinelife/sheepcrab/>

## Perfect Penguins

By Kyle K.

These are the main types of penguins: Rockhopper, Chinstrap, Macaroni, Gentoo, Adelie, King, and Emperor.

Most penguins eat little fish, squid, and krill. Krill are a type of fish.

Emperor penguins are cool. They're as tall as a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader but they weigh as much as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader.

When penguins swim they don't get wet. They don't even feel freeze or feel cold.

If you want to see a penguin, they live in South America, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa.

Penguins spend their days in the water catching food, but they even climb on the land if they need to

raise their young. When it is time for the penguins to breed they have to go to a special place to give birth, which is called a rookery. Sometimes penguins have to travel up to 100 miles to get to the rookery. One rookery has about 1 million penguins.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penguin>

## Swell Sharks

By Fatimah R.

Did you know that there is more than one type of swell shark? Well, there is! There is the whitefin swell shark, cooks swell shark, the reticulated swell shark, etc. The swell shark is a catshark, and it has spots like a leopard.

Swell sharks are really interesting sharks. For example, swell sharks get their

name because when threatened, they wedge themselves into a rocky crevice by gulping in mouthfuls of water, which makes them swell up. Swell sharks also live on the eastern side of the Pacific Ocean.

Female swell sharks lay two eggs at a time and drop eggs in seaweed. The eggs come in a leathery case for

protection. After one month, the egg develops into a tiny embryo. The embryo grows larger and begins to form eyes and a tail. After a long period of time, the embryo starts to look more like a baby shark.

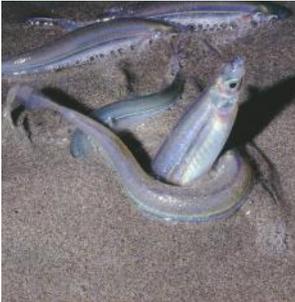
In conclusion the swell shark is an interesting shark because of their unique reproduction.



<http://www.digitaljournal.com/topic/swell+shark>

## Grunions

By Nathan S.



<https://www.tripsavvy.com/grunion-fish-runs-and-hunting->

**H**ave you ever heard of a type of fish known as a grunion that lay their eggs in the sand? The female is accompanied by two or more male grunions to help her. However, when the eggs are in the sand, they are not entirely safe. Sandpiper birds, which eat the eggs, poke their beaks in the sand to find food. Sometimes they un-

cover the eggs. Also, people catch grunion when they go up to shore.

Did you know that there are two types of grunion? One is called the California Grunion and the other is the Gulf Grunion, but they both have blueish-green backs, silver sides and bellies, and are small and slender. However, the California Grunion lives in Califor-

nia, and the Gulf Grunion lives in Baja California, Mexico.

Grunion also have no teeth. They eat small organisms like plankton.

Grunion really are unique and quaint fish. If you want to see grunion running on the sand, check with the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium for their grunion-run events.

## Horn Sharks

By Owen Y.



<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animal-guide/fishes/horn-shark>

**H**orn sharks are very interesting. They got their name because they have a short, blunt head. Their body color is dark grey to light brown with dark brown or black spots.

Horn sharks are in the Heterodontidae family. Their common names are bullhead shark and pig shark.

Horn sharks are slow

moving and nocturnal which means they are inactive during the day.

Horn sharks can grow up to 4 ft. They are found in depths between 25-40 ft in warm temperature subtropical regions of the eastern Pacific Ocean from central California to the Gulf of California.

In winter, Horn sharks are found in depths of 7-36

ft. They eat gastropods, crabs, shrimp, squid, sea urchins, sea stars, and small fishes. However, sharks and large fish are their predators.

Horn sharks mate in the months of December and January. Females deposit up to 24 eggs a single season. This makes it so that Horn sharks won't become endangered.

## Harp Seals

By Ethan C.



<https://dyj59w791s2zy.cloudfront.net/scene/914270641132142594>

**S**eals spend most of their life on water. They are better adapted for living in water than on land.

Although some seals are huge, all seals are car-

nivores and eat only meat for their diet.

Harp seals can grow up to six feet and weigh up to 300 pounds. They mostly live in cold waters in Alaska and the

North Atlantic. They can dive to 1,500 feet for up to 40 minutes. However, their average dive lasts three to seven minutes. Sometimes Harp Seals even sleep in the water!

# CMA Kids News Photo Album



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