



Amazing Facts

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AMAZING AQUATIC FACTS

Nicknamed “canaries of the sea” by sailors, **BELUGA WHALES** produce a variety of vocalizations — including high-pitched squeals, clicks, trills, mews and bell-like tones — that are similar to bird calls.

A **SHARK’S** eye is seven times more powerful than a man’s. Contrary to popular belief, all sharks aren’t dangerous to humans. You stand a greater chance of choking on a toothpick, getting struck by lightning, or even being bitten by another person than of getting attacked by a shark.

Pencil-eraser-sized animals called polyps and tiny plants combine to form the world’s **CORAL REEFS**. They occupy less than 1 percent of the ocean’s floor but are home to a quarter of all marine fish species. They also grow very slowly and can take hundreds of years to reach a few feet in height. The largest coral reef — Australia’s Great Barrier Reef — is visible from outer space.

The world’s largest spider — **GOLIATH BIRD-EATING SPIDER** — has a leg span of up to 12 inches and resides in the Amazon rain forest.

Hunted to near extinction for their fur, groups of **SEA OTTERS** in Alaska and California continue to face serious threats to their long-term survival. They have more hair per square inch than any other animal, which once made them an attractive target for hunters. Their dense fur also makes them vulnerable to oil spills, the most serious problem now facing them. Because they rely on their fur — not blubber — to stay warm, an encounter with oil may cause hypothermia or death.

Although **PENGUINS** cannot fly, they are agile swimmers, reaching speeds of up to 25 miles per hour. Penguins have two layers of feathers — short, dense outer feathers overlap to form a tight, waterproof covering over a second, downy layer of feathers that keeps body-warmed air next to the birds’ skin. This unique feathering permits penguins to swim in water that is as much as 70 degrees colder than their bodies.

PUFFERFISH defend themselves by gulping water to “puff” themselves up like a balloon. The porcupine puffer’s spines becomes erect as the body expands, making predators think twice before taking a bite.

Imagine a world where males get pregnant, dance every morning with their partners during pregnancy and are loyal to their mates for life. So it is for **SEAHORSES**.

SEA TURTLES have roamed the world’s waters since the days of the dinosaurs, more than 185 million years ago. All seven sea turtle species now are threatened or endangered.