



People call me a “swimming nose” because I use more than half of my brain for smelling. I can sense tiny amounts of blood in the water. (Just one part of blood per million parts of saltwater.)



There are over 450 kinds of us. We can be just seven inches long, or up to 60 feet long. Most of us are streamlined, with a big, curved tail.



I have fins. I have to keep swimming or I sink. I don’t have an air bladder that keeps me afloat, like fish do. That’s why you’ll always see me cruising around.



I have a powerful bite and rows of razor-sharp teeth. When a tooth wears out, another tooth moves forward to replace it. During my life, I may use up 3,000 teeth.



I often bite my prey just once, then watch it die before I eat it. That’s because I want to avoid a fight that might hurt me. It’s also why many people survive my attacks.



My skeleton isn’t made of bone. It’s made of cartilage, a tough, rubbery tissue. My sandpaper-like skin has thousands of tiny sharp teeth. I live in every part of the ocean.



People hunt us and collect our eggs. That’s why there are fewer of us today. Many of the beaches where we nest are now protected. We don’t take care of our young.



We roam the warm ocean waters, feeding on jellyfish, sponges, crabs, and grasses. We may live 50 years or longer. Some of us weigh 800 pounds.



I can swim underwater for up to 45 minutes. When I rest, I can stay underwater for five hours. Females lay about 100 eggs at a time.



When I'm born, I race to the ocean to find safety. To lay my eggs, I return to the same beach where I was born.



My cousins live in fresh water and on land. They can pull their head and legs into their shells, but I can't.



I'm cold-blooded. I have four limbs. Only the females ever come out onto the shore. Some of us can dive 3,300 feet deep in the ocean.



I open a shell and move part of my stomach into the shell. Then I pour juices into the shell to help me eat. My colors are red, orange, and yellow.



If you turn me over, it can take me a few seconds or over 15 minutes to turn myself over again. I have 40,000 tube feet and lay over 2 million eggs.



I'm not very fast. I travel just six inches a minute. My slow speed is okay, because not too many other creatures eat me.



I have little tubes that help me move around. They also help me cling to rocks.



I can have five arms, or I can have up to forty arms or more. If I lose an arm, I can regrow it.



You can see me in a rocky tide pool, but sometimes I live in deep water. I eat clams, snails, and chitons. My mouth is under me, where all my arms meet.



Many of us will place algae, or other dead or living things on our backs to disguise ourselves. Fish, birds, seals, and octopi eat us. A few of us live in fresh water.



Tiny “eyes” on two long stalks allow me to see in all directions. Those of us living in caves or deep water rely more on touch and vibration. I have eight legs, three body parts, and claws.



I continue growing throughout adult life. This means I have to sometimes leave my old shell to grow a new, larger one.



Some of us can run swiftly sideways, and others can even swim and float. We live in all of the following places: beaches, tidal marshes, bays, and deeper water.



I have legs, antennae, and an outside skeleton that is usually quite hard. Most of us are scavengers, although some are predators.



My two claws are used for feeding, defense, and mating. In some species, the males have one claw that is so large it may weigh one half of its entire body weight.



I can hear and talk with others of my kind even when they are a hundred miles away. That's because sound travels better in water than in air. Some of my relatives can bounce their voices off of things to tell how far away they are.



My body has a thick layer of blubber. My blubber keeps me warm even in ice-cold ocean waters. My blubber "coat" is up to two feet thick for part of the year.



Many of us travel to warm water to give birth. The mother sometimes pushes her newborn calf to the surface to get its first breath of air.



I'm the biggest animal on the earth. I'm bigger than three dinosaurs. I weigh as much as 35 elephants. I often live for 50 to 100 years.



I breathe through two holes in the top of my head. There used to be many more of us. There are only six of us for every 100 that used to live in the ocean. Humans killed many of our kind.



When I'm a baby I weigh seven tons and I'm about 24 feet long. I gain 200 pounds every day! That's nine pounds an hour. As an adult, I may eat three tons of food every day. I eat a shrimp-like animal called krill.



Some of our males are three to five times as big as the females. During the breeding season, the males arrive on the beaches first.



I raise my young on land. I'm clumsy on land, so I look for beaches where there are few enemies.



I have very good sight, smell, and touch. I eat small prey under water, but I eat larger prey on the surface. I can dive for as long as 70 minutes. I have teeth.



I raise my young in colonies. I feed my young pups milk. Only the mother cares for the pups.



Hunters killed many of us, but today most of us are protected. I'm warm-blooded, and I have four limbs.



I may live to be 25 years old. A cousin of mine has two long tusks and may live for 40 years. Some of us can dive 2,000 feet deep in the sea.



The smaller I am, the more poisonous my bite. The bigger I get, the more shy and gentle I become. I can shoot ink at my enemies.



I can lay up to 50,000 eggs. I guard my eggs until they hatch. I can weigh up to 150 pounds. I can pull apart clams with my tentacles.



I have a beak. I have eight tentacles. I have two gills and a siphon. My body is like a sack with no bones. I can pour myself through small openings. I can raise my eyes like a periscope.



I can change my skin color and texture to look like my surroundings. I can even make myself transparent. I live in the rocks on the ocean floor.



I'm very intelligent and curious. I once escaped and was found in a library, using my tentacles to turn the pages of a book. (That's a true story!)



I can crawl along the sea bottom. I can also move with "jet engines" by squirting water out behind myself.



I'm tiny. I'm shaped like a cylinder, and I'm hollow. I attach myself to a hard place on the bottom of the sea. I use my mouth and tentacles to capture food that drifts by.



When I die, my skeleton helps create a place for fish, sponges, worms, mollusks, crustaceans, and many other living things.



I live in all these places: Australia, the Caribbean, the South Pacific, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean. I don't move around but scuba divers like to visit me.



We live in colonies. When we die, our dead bodies create an environment that is very rich with life.



I make a hard limestone skeleton with calcium and carbon dioxide from water and air. We made the Great Barrier Reef, which is over a thousand miles long.



Sometimes I look like a colorful plant, but I'm really an animal. I grow in warm, tropical seas where the water is shallow.



My streamlined body helps me swim very fast. My skeleton is made of bone. I have an air bladder that helps me float. Our females lay 5,000 pink or red eggs. The eggs are the size of a pea.



I can work my eyes separately. I can see to the front and back at the same time. I'm born a long way from the ocean, but I spend one to four years living in the ocean.



I need cool streams with gravel bars and lots of oxygen to raise my young. There aren't as many of me as there once were. I can't live where humans build dams, log the forests, build roads or graze cattle.



I live in the cool water of the North Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. I have scales and fins. I have a coat of slime that protects me from disease and makes me slippery.



If I live in the Pacific Ocean, I die soon after my eggs are fertilized. If I live in the Atlantic, I may go back to the sea and spawn again.



I can jump up waterfalls. I can jump six feet high. I swim five or six hours a day when I migrate. I can return to the stream where I was born. My sense of smell tells me where to go.



I use my wings to "fly" underwater—not in the air. I eat fish, squid, and shrimp.



I nest in large colonies. I lay only one or two eggs. I don't have any teeth. I'm about 13 to 48 inches tall.



One of us can dive down 900 feet deep, but most of us catch our food close to the surface and close to shore. I have a sharp-pointed beak.



My thick, fur-like feathers keep me warm in the cold ocean near the bottom of the earth.



When swimming, I often come up to the air to breathe. On land, I push myself along on my belly, or I hop or waddle on two feet.



I can swim as fast as a seal. I can swim almost 25 miles per hour. I swim with wings like paddles, and I steer with my feet.



Most of us find our way by making high-pitched sounds and listening for the echo. We rest hanging head down. We may live for up to 32 years. That's good, because we have only one baby per year.



Without our help, humans would have to use more chemicals to control insects. One colony in Texas eats almost a half million pounds of insects every night. In the United States, four out of every 10 of our species are threatened or endangered.



25% of all mammals are my kind. Most of us live in the tropics. But you can find us everywhere except in the polar regions, over the oceans, and in extreme deserts. If cold weather comes, we may migrate or hibernate.



My ears can be small or large. I often have a tiny tail. I may live alone or in a group. My wingspan varies from 5 inches to 6 feet. I have been known to fly up to two miles high. I can eat up to 1,000 mosquitos an hour.



Many of us have excellent hearing. Sometimes our hearing is so sensitive that we can hear the footsteps of a beetle. Some of us eat fruit, pollen, and nectar, and rely more on sight and smell. The flower-feeders have tongues built like paintbrushes.



Some of my kind disperse the seeds of many plants that are important to humans. We also pollinate plants, just like bees do. Some of us can eat two and a half times our weight in fruit in just one night. We have been called masters of the night sky.



We're the noisiest animals in the rainforest—especially when we're together! Our loud shrieks and bright colors help us stay together in the dense jungle.



I use my beak to crack open nuts. I also use it to cut holes in trees to build my nest. My beak also helps me grab branches while I climb. I can hang upside down by my feet.



We're smart, friendly and colorful, and we like to be praised. Many of us can mimic sounds. We're been called the monkeys of the bird world because we climb and fly around easily in the treetops where we live.



I have a big head and a short neck. I have a hooked beak and short, thick legs with toes like a woodpecker. People catch us and keep us as pets. That's one reason there aren't as many of us living in the rainforest now.



Most of us live in South America and Australia, but some of us live in Africa and Asia. Our smallest family member is just four inches long, and the biggest is 40 inches long. We can live for up to 80 years. We build our nests in tree holes.



We eat fruit, nuts, seeds, and fungi. We can grab food with our feet and bring it to our mouths. (Just like eating a sandwich!) We're the only birds that can do this.



Males have bushy antennae to hear with. They find the females by listening for the sound of their wings beating. We fly at speeds of 1 to 1½ miles per hour. In a strong breeze we'll land or turn around and fly with the wind.



Most of us live in the tropics, but we're found all over the world. We live no longer than about five months. We can fly forward, backwards, sideways, and hover in one place. We like to fly into the wind if we can.



Females lay up to 200 eggs after every meal. Eggs may be laid wherever there is water—in lakes, puddles, tree holes, or large plant leaves where water has collected. The largest of my kind is 1½ inch long, but usually we're much smaller.



I avoid direct sunlight, smoke, and wind. I'm most active at sunrise and sunset. I have four life stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult stage. I have two wings.



When females bite, they add saliva to the wound. The saliva has a liquid that prevents blood from clotting. It also has an anesthetic that keeps the victim from feeling the bite, giving the female time to get away.



Males feed only on flower nectar, but females can feed on nectar or blood. The females find their prey by sensing heat, moisture, and carbon dioxide. We can smell human breath 75 feet away.



We live in Africa, Australia, Southeast Asia, North, Central and South America. Some of us are as long as 20 feet. Fossils show that some of us used to be over 50 feet long. There are over 20 different kinds of us. We have partly webbed feet.



I have four short legs and a very long tail. I have big teeth and powerful jaws, but I cannot chew my food. Instead, I tear it off and swallow it. I'm cold-blooded, and I lay eggs. I have a tail that I use like an oar. I can also use my tail as a weapon.



I live mostly in or near fresh water. I live where the weather is warm. One of my kind lives in the open ocean and where rivers meet the sea. I have thick, hard skin with big, strong, horny plates. I don't use my legs to swim.



You may see me floating in the water with just my eyes, ears, and nostrils above the surface. I can stay underwater for over an hour. I can open my jaws underwater to hold prey; flaps keep water from entering my throat.



When I'm young, I eat small animals like insects, frogs, and fish. When I'm older, I may eat larger fish, birds, mammals and turtles. I may also swallow stones to stabilize myself in water. I grow one to three feet a year. I don't shed my skin.



Some of the mothers of our kind build nest mounds. The mother guards her eggs and uncovers them when they're ready to hatch. She gently crushes any unhatched eggs to release the young. Some mothers carry the young in their mouths.



Our motto is: I'll scratch your back if you'll scratch mine. We express friendship by cleaning and combing each other's coats.



Most of us can climb, run, and swing rapidly through trees. We eat mostly plants, but not always. In Africa, some of us have cheek pouches where we can store food.



We like company. Some of us live in small families, but some live in groups of 100 or more. We have four legs.



We have fur. We have flat fingernails, but no claws. We make many different calls: trills, squeaks, grunts, hoots, barks, and whistles. You can hear one of our kind over a mile away.



If I feel threatened, I may open my mouth and show my big canine teeth. Or I might shake a branch or bounce on it, or try to break it off.



Those of us who live in Asia and Africa use our tails to help us keep our balance as we swing through the trees. Our cousins in Central and South America sometimes use their tails as a fifth hand. They can hang by their tails or use them to hold food.



I have sharp, powerful claws that are four inches long. I walk on the knuckles of my front feet to protect my claws. I use my claws to dig and defend myself. I'm peaceful, but when I feel threatened I stand on my hind legs and lash out with my front claws.



My mouth is twice as big around as a pencil. When I eat, I flick my tongue out 160 times a minute. I can stick my tongue out 24 inches. I sometimes live for 26 years. If humans live nearby, I'm mostly active at night.



When I feed, I open an ant or termite nest with my claws and eat for only a minute or so. By not destroying the ant colony, I can return and feed again and again.



I'm about the size of a German shepherd dog. I have a long, narrow tongue. It has tiny spines that point backward. When I eat, my tongue is coated with sticky saliva.



I have a long snout, a black stripe across my body, and a bushy, longhaired tail. I weigh up to 86 pounds. I sometimes eat 30,000 ants and termites a day. I'm usually silent, but if I'm scared or angry I bellow loudly.



Mothers of my species have one baby at a time. We may carry the baby on our back for up to a year. We have no teeth. We feed our young with milk. We have keen hearing to warn us when a puma or jaguar comes near. We don't climb trees.



People who live in the jungles of the Amazon use me to stitch deep wounds. They do this by getting me to bite across the wound and pull the edges together. My long jaws act as the stitches.



We're known as the terror of the jungle. When we march, we move about 20 yards an hour and eat almost everything in our path, including insects, snakes, birds, grubs, and mammals.



We live in Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America. There are over 200 different kinds of us. Most of us live for about two months. We come in many sizes, even in the same species. That's because we have different jobs.



We're cold-blooded and have six legs. We're almost blind, but we can follow each other by odor trails. Some of us grow to 2 inches long.



In a single group, there may be 20 million of us. Yet, we have one female who may lay up to 30,000 eggs a day and several million a month. We don't have a permanent nest.



When we stop for the night, some of us protect the female and her young by making living walls out of ourselves. We do this by hooking our claws and jaws together. We'll even cross rivers by linking ourselves together to form a huge raft or bridge.



We eat our prey headfirst and swallow it whole. We can eat prey several times our own size, because our mouth and skin can stretch. We shed our skins one to four times a year. We can live for 20 years or more.



We don't have legs, eyelids, or external ears. Most of us can swim, climb trees and crawl. Most of us travel at two to four miles per hour, though one of us can crawl ten mph. We have scales under our bodies that help us move.



We can't hear airborne sounds. But we can feel sound vibrations through our bodies from the ground. We use our forked tongue to smell. Many of us also have heat sensors that allow us to tell how far away an animal is, and which way it's traveling.



The largest one of us can grow over 30 feet long and weigh 1,100 pounds. It lives in sluggish jungle waters in South America, and can eat animals as big as crocodiles.



A slow metabolism allows us to live on just one tenth of the food that a bird or mammal our size needs. Depending on how big we are, we might eat just once a week, or just once a year. Our backbones have up to 450 vertebrae.



We live mostly in warm climates, because we depend on our surroundings to maintain our body temperature. Some of us have mildly poisonous saliva or venom that helps us digest our prey. Others of us like to squeeze our food before eating.



My wings move so fast that they hum. I flap my wings typically 50 times a second. I protect my patch of flowers or garden from others of my own kind. I eat 50 to 60 meals there in a single day. I've been called a living helicopter.



I'm one of the smallest warm-blooded animals. I'm just 2 ¼ inches long. I use lots of energy. If humans used as much energy as I do, they'd have to eat 370 pounds of potatoes or 130 pounds of bread a day. I have feathers.



When I'm resting, my pulse is 480 beats a minute. When I'm active, it's 1280 beats per minute. My food is mainly nectar sipped from flowers, but I eat insects, too. When it's cool, I become dormant. I usually lay two pea-sized eggs.



Some scientists have said that we shouldn't be able to fly long distances, but one of us flies 600 miles over the Gulf of Mexico without stopping. We can fly up, down, sideways, forward, backward, and hover motionless in the air.



Because of my bright, shiny colors, some of my names are: shining sunbeam, red-tailed comet, white-bellied woodstar, purple-crowned fairy, and sunangel. I have a slender, pointed beak and two tiny feet. I live mostly in Central and South America.



I achieve full flight speed almost instantly after takeoff. I can fly at speeds of 25-30 miles per hour. My size ranges from 2 ¼ to 8 ½ inches. There are more than 325 species of us, and males are more brightly colored than females.



I live in Central and South America. I have been seen in the United States as recently as 2013. Logging, mining, and farming have reduced my habitat. Hunting and fur trading have also reduced my numbers. I have yellow fur with black spots.



I weigh from 70 to 250 pounds. I am 6 to 9 feet long including my tail. I have large, heavy teeth and jaw muscles that allow me to prey on hard-skinned animals like turtles and caimans. I am a cat; only lions and tigers are bigger than I am.



I have a powerful body. I live alone, and I have no fear of humans. Mothers of my kind raise one to four young. I live only in the Western Hemisphere. I have sharp, retractable claws and can roar.



I am the best swimmer of my kind. I'm at home in swamps, rivers, and on islands. I eat fish, turtles, caimans, and ground dwelling birds and mammals. My name means animal that overcomes its prey in a single bound. I have whiskers.



Canids (dogs, wolves, etc.) are more social than I am. They will chase their prey for longer distances, but I like to stalk my prey or wait in ambush. My spots help me hide by breaking up my outline.



I dangle my tail in the water to attract fish, then I scoop them up. My favorite way to hunt is to wait high in a tree and pounce on the back of my prey.