Great White Comeback

The number of great white sharks in the waters around the United States is on the rise—and scientists say that's good news. Page 4
Malala’s Mission

Meet a teen who risked her life to stand up for what she believes in.

Two years ago, the world learned about the bravery of a girl named Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH-luh yoo-suf-ZAY). Malala, 17, is from the Swat Valley in Pakistan. In 2007, a violent group called the Taliban took over the area. On October 9, 2012, Malala was shot for standing up for her right to an education. She was nearly killed.

Malala recovered and now lives in England. It’s too risky for her to return to Pakistan. She travels the world spreading her message: that all kids deserve an education. The children’s version of her best-selling book I Am Malala was released last month. Malala recently spoke with Scholastic News.

Scholastic News: Pakistan faces many challenges. Why is girls’ education such an important thing to focus on?

Malala: In Pakistan, I’ve seen so many situations in which girls are denied their basic human rights. In 2007, terrorism started in the Swat Valley. At that time, women were not allowed to go to markets or to school. They were not even allowed to go out of their houses. There was no freedom for women at all. More than 400 girls’ schools were destroyed.

I realized girls’ education is really important, and that’s why the terrorists are afraid of it. They do not want women to be empowered. I realized education is very special, and that’s why I started speaking for it.

SN: What’s your life like in England?

Malala: England is a nice country, but it’s very cold. It’s difficult for me to get used to the cold weather!

I have a very good school. The schools in Pakistan are totally different from the schools in England. In England, you find libraries, science labs, and computer labs in every school. You find teachers who can help you all the time. You don’t have to sit on the floor. I’m very lucky.

SN: You’ve said you want to go back to Pakistan. Why?

Malala: When you go to your hometown, there’s this special feeling that you don’t find in any other place. I miss that feeling.

When I was in the Swat Valley, I would see children every day who were not going to school. They were going to other people’s houses to clean. I really wanted to see those children going to school, having books and pens in their hands. It’s still my dream.

—Interview by Alessandra Potenza

Note: This interview was edited and condensed by the editors of Scholastic News.

Word to Know

empowered (em-POW-wuhrd) adjective, made stronger and more confident
Prehistoric Penguin

Scientists discover the bones of a gigantic ancient penguin in Antarctica.

Do you think all penguins are little and cute and cuddly? Think again. Scientists recently discovered fossils from an enormous prehistoric penguin that would have towered over most humans. They believe that the giant bird stood about 6 feet 6 inches tall and weighed about 250 pounds. That would make it the largest known penguin to ever have waddled the Earth.

Scientists call the species the "colossal penguin." They say the bird lived about 37 million to 40 million years ago. Researchers discovered only part of its wing and a bone from its foot. Still, it was the most complete fossil of any animal ever found in Antarctica.

Emperor penguins are the largest penguins alive today, standing about 4 feet tall. That may seem pretty big for a penguin, but they would have been puny compared with their giant ancestors.

Word to Know

ancestors (AN-se-surs) noun, plural. family members who lived long ago

How Big Was It?

Here’s how the colossal penguin would have measured up to basketball All-Star LeBron James and to an emperor penguin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Height (feet)</th>
<th>Colossal Penguin</th>
<th>LeBron James</th>
<th>Emperor Penguin</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6 feet 6 inches</td>
<td>6 feet 8 inches</td>
<td>4 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>250 pounds</td>
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NAME:
Cory Nieves

AGE: 10

HOMETOWN:
Englewood, New Jersey

WHO HE IS: Founder and president of a company called Mr. Cory’s Cookies

HOW HE DID IT: Cory started his business in 2009 to raise money to help his mother buy a new car. He began by selling hot chocolate and cookies, which his mom helped him make, from a stand. Before long, his business took off.

These days, Cory sells his cookies online and at events throughout New Jersey and New York. He also has a new goal for his cookie business: earn enough money to pay for college.

CORY SAYS:
"I want everyone to have a big cookie made with love."

www.scholastic.com/sn4
Great White Comeback

The number of great white sharks in the waters around the U.S. is on the rise—and scientists say that's good news.

Great white sharks may be the most feared predators in the world. Just hearing their name sends shivers down most people's spines. But for years, these giant sharks had more to fear from humans than we did from them. Thousands of great whites were killed each year. That caused their population to decline. Scientists worried that the sharks were becoming endangered.

But thanks to conservation efforts, great whites are making a comeback. Two recent studies show that the population of these sharks is rising along the east and west coasts of the U.S. In fact, the number of great whites in the northwest Atlantic Ocean has nearly doubled since 1990. Knowing that more sharks are in the ocean may scare people. But scientists say it's actually good news.

Order in the Ocean

Why is the growing number of these killer fish something to celebrate? Sharks play an important role in the ocean ecosystem. As the top predators, sharks help keep the numbers of the fish, seals, and other creatures they eat from growing too large. If the population of any species gets too big, it hurts the rest of the food chain.

Sharks also help keep the seas clean. They feed on the bodies of rotting sea creatures. That keeps beaches free of harmful bacteria.

On the Hunt

Despite their importance, great white sharks have long been hunted. They are killed for their teeth, which are used to...
make jewelry, and for their fins (see “Sharks Still in Trouble”). The giant fish are also major trophies for fishermen. But, in 1997, the U.S. government passed a law that banned the hunting of great whites. Slowly, the numbers of these sharks in U.S. waters started to rise.

Tag, You’re It!
That law isn’t the only thing that has helped great whites. Tracking the big fish has allowed scientists—and the public—to learn a lot more about them.

Scientists use a method called tagging to track sharks. An electronic tag attached to a shark’s fin pinpoints its location. Every time a shark’s fin rises above the water, the tag sends a signal to a satellite. That information goes to scientists.

Tagging lets researchers follow sharks as they travel the world’s oceans. Studying shark behavior provides information that can help the giant fish. For example, learning where sharks go to breed may lead to better protection of those areas.

Tagging has also allowed the public to get to know sharks better than ever. Last year, scientists at the research group OCEARCH tagged a 14-foot great white near Massachusetts. They named her Katharine. You can follow her and other tagged sharks online.

This helps people see sharks in a new way—not just as the fierce killers shown in movies. As people learn to appreciate sharks, experts hope more will be done to protect them.

“Shark conservation comes with an educated public,” says shark expert Gregory Skomal. —by Samantha McCann

Words to Know

conservation  (kon-sur-VAY-shun) noun. the protection of wildlife, forests, and natural resources
ecosystem (EE-koh-sis-tum) noun. a community of living things and their environment

Sharks Still in Trouble

Although great whites are making a comeback in the United States, sharks aren’t doing as well in other parts of the world. One of the main reasons is shark finning. That’s when fishermen catch a shark, cut off its fins, and throw the rest of its body back into the ocean. The shark soon sinks to the ocean floor and dies.

Why do people want shark fins? Believe it or not, the fins are used to make soup. Shark fin soup has been a special dish in China and other Asian countries for centuries. Fins from more than 70 million sharks are used each year to make soup. Just one pound of fins can sell for up to $450. In China, an effort to change people’s attitudes about using shark fins has helped. But shark fin soup is still on the menu at many of the restaurants there.

Find out about the role sharks play in the food chain, www.scholastic.com/sn4
Mars on Earth

Scientists learn what it would be like to live on Mars.

Ross Lockwood put on a spacesuit and went outside. Red dirt and dried lava were everywhere. The area looked a lot like Mars, but it was actually the Mauna Loa volcano in Hawaii. Lockwood and five other researchers were there to take part in a project to simulate life on the Red Planet.

NASA, the U.S. space agency, plans to send astronauts to Mars by the 2030s. But scientists are already preparing. They hope what they learned from the project in Hawaii will one day help astronauts survive on Mars.

Mission to "Mars"
The project lasted from April to August. Mauna Loa was chosen as the project site because its terrain, or land, is similar to that on Mars.

"This is as close as I can get to being on Mars without having to leave Earth," Lockwood says.

During the mission, the crew lived like they would on Mars. Getting there would take six to eight months. So they ate only foods that would survive the trip, like dried fruits. And since there's no oxygen on Mars, the team wore spacesuits any time they left the 35-foot-wide dome they were living in.

NASA studied how the crew got along and how they dealt with being away from home for so long. That will be important to know for a real mission to Mars, which would likely last for years.

Word to Know
simulate (SIM-yoo-layt) verb. to re-create an event or a process

A member of the team explores the Mars-like terrain of Mauna Loa.
Take Away Recess for Bad Behavior?

In many schools, kids who misbehave aren't allowed to have recess. But that's not the case in Springfield, Missouri, public schools. Officials there put an end to that type of punishment last school year. They say recess is too important for kids' health. Some other schools have done the same thing. The American Academy of Pediatrics, a leading group of doctors, supports that change.

But taking away recess is still a common punishment. More than three quarters of principals say their schools still do it, according to a recent poll by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Many people argue that kids enjoy recess, so taking it away for bad behavior teaches them a lesson.

Here's what two of our readers think.

**Yes**

Megan Watters
New Hampshire

Kids will behave better in class if they think they might lose recess. Teachers have few other punishment options. For example, pulling kids from class hurts them more since they miss out on important class time.

Kids who lose recess often have to use that time to do schoolwork instead. Extra study time could help them become better students in the future.

**No**

Joshua Holland
Connecticut

Recess gives kids a chance to exercise and time to be with friends. Students who act up usually do so because they have a lot of energy. They need recess to use up that energy and make them more ready to focus on learning.

A recent study of kids in fourth grade shows the importance of recess. It found that recess helps the kids focus better in class.

**What's Your Opinion?**

GO ONLINE to cast your vote and download an opinion-writing skills sheet. www.scholastic.com/sn4

Tara asks Amy to go to the mall with her. Amy is excited because Tara is the most popular girl in school. When they get there, Tara pressures Amy to steal a pair of earrings from a clothing store. Amy knows it's wrong to steal, but she wants to impress Tara.

**What should Amy do?**

1. Which animal is the shortest?

2. How much longer is a great white shark than a blue marlin?

3. Which two animals have a combined length of 25 feet?

4. Which animal is 13 feet shorter than a great white shark?

5. Which sentence talks about what helped cause the great white shark population to increase?
   A) “Great white sharks may be the most feared predators in the world.”
   B) “They feed on the bodies of rotting sea creatures.”
   C) “Sharks play an important role in the ocean ecosystem.”
   D) “The U.S. government passed a law that banned the hunting of great whites.”

6. Today, there are about ____ as many great whites in the northwest Atlantic Ocean as in 1990.
   A) half
   B) twice
   C) three times
   D) four times

7. Scientists tag sharks to ____.
   A) help fishermen hunt them for their fins
   B) protect them from whales
   C) keep track of their locations
   D) scare them away from beaches