

Computers & Kids



NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 7

August-September 2007

EXPLORE the Virtual Ocean

Sydney has some world class aquariums, now you can explore the rest of the world's underwater life, online!

Two of the world's most famous aquariums – the Monterey Aquarium in California and the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago – have two of the best sites for young ocean explorers.

Featured at the Monterey Aquarium's site (<http://montereyaquarium.org/lc/>) are live web cams, activities and games, a Video Library, and a 168-page printable Sea Searcher's Handbook full of articles and hands-on activities.

The Shedd Aquarium's site located at www.sheddaquarium.org/sea/ includes Shedd Educational Adventures (SEA) that brings the ocean to life with fact sheets and multimedia activities and games. "Read" a fish before you know how to read words? Sure! Visit the lessons plan for years K-2 to learn to "read" the fish; learn to "squish a fish" in the interactive pages; and find answers to all your questions at the Explorer's Guide.

After your aquarium visits, go to Enchanted Learning and let your children choose printables to create and color their own ocean habitat.

EnchantedLearning.com/coloring/oceanlife.shtml

What does your child's habitat look like?

After your children learn about the habitat of sea creatures, ask them to illustrate what their own habitat looks like. Let your child use a digital camera to photograph his/her world; use KidPix® or PowerPoint® software to display photos, adding various background themes and clip art to complete the collage.



Get Adventurousome!

Whether you set up your computer with a flight simulator, visit the LittleClickers.com sites to see the Giants of the Sea, or get to the library to pick out a few more books, you can provide adventures for your child everyday. Between all of the offerings on the Internet and at your local library, you don't need to turn on the television or spend a cent on entertainment! Let your children determine the destination and support them on their adventures by surfing the Internet together, or spending a rainy afternoon diving into a good book!

Holiday Camp Success

The holidays have passed and another school term has begun and our holiday camps once again were a roaring success. The participants and leaders worked together at having a great time and made our time during the holidays a real highlight.

Now you can relive the excitement, catch a glimpse of yourself or see what all the fuss is about with three new videos from the camps now up on our website at www.computerexplorers.com.au.



Giants of the Sea

One of the best things about a visit to the beach is that you never know what the sea is hiding. For example, one day in 2002, some beachcombers stumbled upon a squid that was 60-foot long! That's longer than a school bus. You can read the news coverage at <http://archives.cnn.com/2002/TECH/science/07/22/australia.squid/>. For this issue of *LittleClickers*, we answer some common questions about the wonders of the sea using the Internet. Have a look!

1. What are the world's largest fish?

Visit <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/faq/fishfaq1.html> and <http://www.elbert.k12.ga.us/showcase/sreid/home/fish.html>.

Answer: The whale shark—which is a fish and not a mammel like a whale—can grow to be more than 50 feet long. Coming in second place is another member of the shark family called the Basking Shark which feeds on plankton by straining water through large comb-like structures in their gills. Both fish are harmless to humans.

2. What animal has the largest eyes?

- A) An Elephant
- B) The Giant Squid
- C) A Horse

Visit <http://www3.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/giant-squid.html> where you'll learn that the giant squid is a meat-eating mollusk that is actually related to a snail. It has a beak-like mouth that is strong enough to cut through a steel cable, and because it lives in very deep, dark water, it needs large eyes that can grow up to 10 inches in diameter. That's the size of a plate!

3. How tall is the world's largest standing sand structure?

- A) 5 feet
- B) 10 feet
- C) Over 20 feet

See the photos at http://www.harrisand.org/guinness_world_records.htm where you can learn about a sand building contest where the winners sculpted a 21-foot-tall Christmas Tree in 86 hours.

4. How long is the world's largest ship?

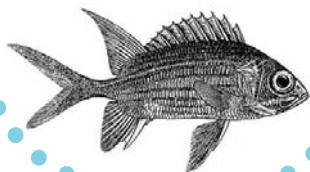
Visit <http://www.ayrshirescotland.com/ships/jahre.html>

The oil tanker *Seawise Guant* (also called the *Jahre Viking*) is really big. It was built in 1981 in Japan, and it is 1,504 feet long with one giant propeller that is 30 feet wide! By comparison, the *Titanic* was only 882 feet long.

5. True or false: Do fish talk?

It turns out that they do, if you count snaps, clicks and grunts as talking. Fish also use chemical odors (or pheromones) and electrical signals. Have a listen for yourself, at

http://www.fishecology.org/soniferous/sound_demo.htm



You could swim inside the mouth of the Basking Shark (above). But the largest fish in the world is the Whale Shark (below).



The Giant Squid (above), the largest sand structure (left) and the largest ship (below)



The LittleClickers Video of the Month Surfing on a Giant Wave

Have a look at the size of the wave that this surfer discovered one day. Yikes! Good thing he didn't slip off his surf board!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2vkwy2vdP4>

