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ALL THAT FLOATS, WITH OR WITHOUT FINS



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B4U PUBLISHING

MAMMAL SWIMMERS

→ NEWFOUNDLAND DOG

The thick coat of the Newfoundland dog is nicely waterproof. It has webbed feet, too, and it doesn't mind the cold. It's a keen and excellent swimmer, of course.



← DOMESTIC CAT

Water—ugh! The domestic cat detests bathing, but if it happens to end up in water, it swims for dear life until it is safely back on dry land.



→ SLOTH

Everything at a slow, measured pace, never racing, sometimes over long distances—that's the sloth's style. Endurance over speed every time!



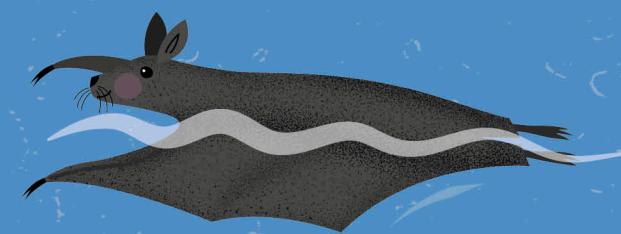
↑ DOMESTIC PIG

In summer, when there's no mud to be had, pigs use water to cool themselves down. Then there's lots of splashing amid the oinking. We can only envy them their swim!



→ BAT

Although the bat doesn't need to open its wings wide to swim like a dream, it isn't very keen on water. It doesn't like getting its fur wet. Ugh! Water is so cold and unpleasant!



← PLATYPUS

The peculiar platypus has webbed feet and a great tail to steer with. Under the water it goes, in pursuit of a nice fish!



↘ POLAR BEAR

No bear loves water like the polar bear. By rights, it should be known as the sea bear. This family has spent the past seven days in the ocean, hunting seals.

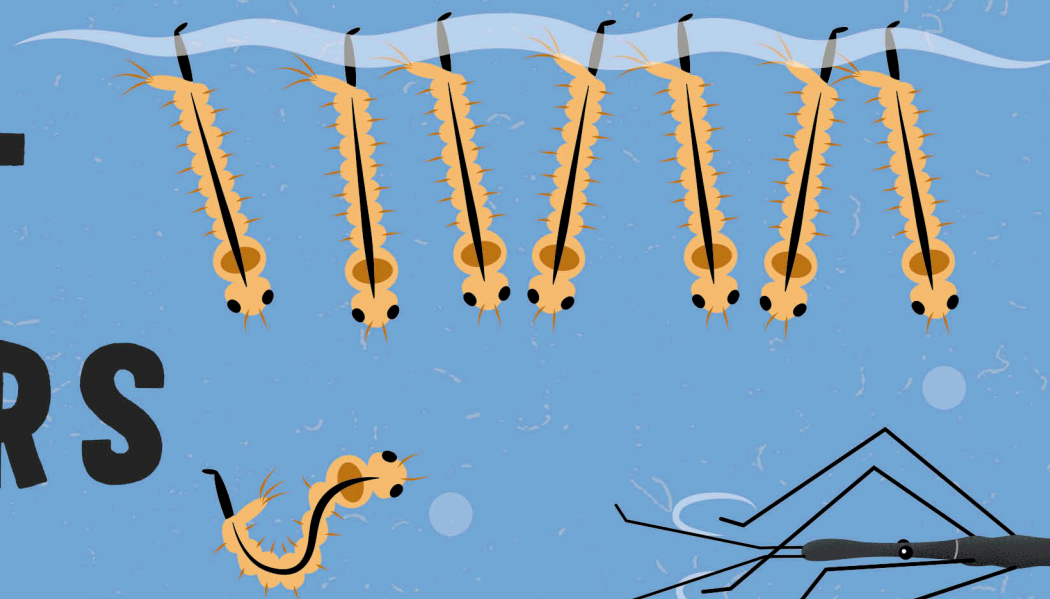


↑ SEA LION

Sea lions are fantastic swimmers—there's no fish they can't catch. The amazing thing is, they can't swim from birth. Young sea lions must work hard to learn this skill, just like you.



INSECT SWIMMERS



← MOSQUITO LARVAE

Why are these little mosquito larvae hanging about on the water? Because they draw air into the tube in their abdomens, they can breathe. If you disturb them, they will swim all the way to the bottom, as they have plenty of air to breathe with.

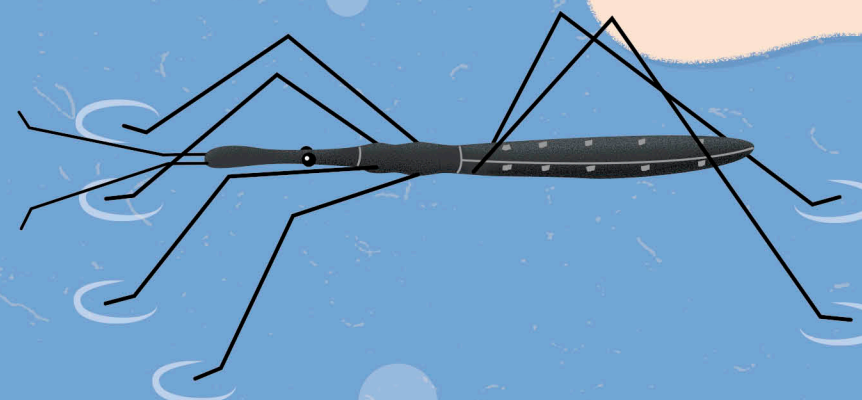
→ BACKSWIMMER

You can't beat a good backstroke! A backswimmer gets along very well in water. It relishes every wave, using its long back legs when it needs to move. Does it remind you of anything? Rather like a pair of oars, isn't it?



↓ WATER MEASURERS

A slim, elegant body on thin legs—that's what a water measurer looks like. It doesn't swim but runs along the water with the light, delicate step of a dancer.



↘ WATER SCORPION

The water scorpion is happiest on the bottom, where there's always something to eat. It pretends to be a floating leaf before mounting a sudden attack. The tube on its back draws in its air supply, which it needs when it's underwater.



↑ POND SKATER

The pond skater is a kind of cleaning lady for water. As it skates nimbly across the surface, it eats any mess it finds. And it's lightning fast.

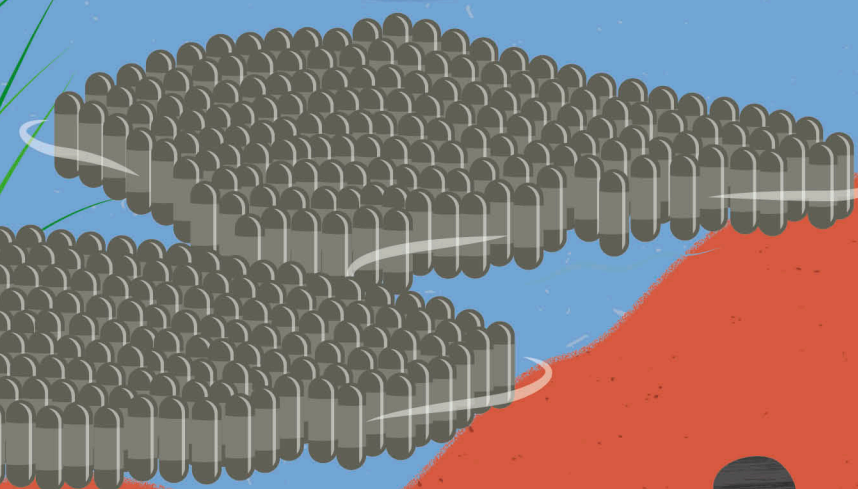
↑ MOLE CRICKET

We tend to find them underground, calmly nibbling at roots. They make garden-lovers furious! But tossing them into water won't get rid of them—they are excellent swimmers and even better divers.



↓ MOSQUITO EGGS

Shush! Do not disturb. Do not disturb who? The babies in those mosquito eggs, of course! They float on water like little light boats. When their time comes, they will hatch right there in the water.



← DRAGONFLY LARVAE

These dragonflies are growing up—how sweet! Before they become full-fledged dragonflies, however, they must go through the aquatic nymph stage, and this wouldn't be possible without water. So they swim, squelch about in the mud and scoff whatever floats their way.



DANGEROUS SWIMMERS

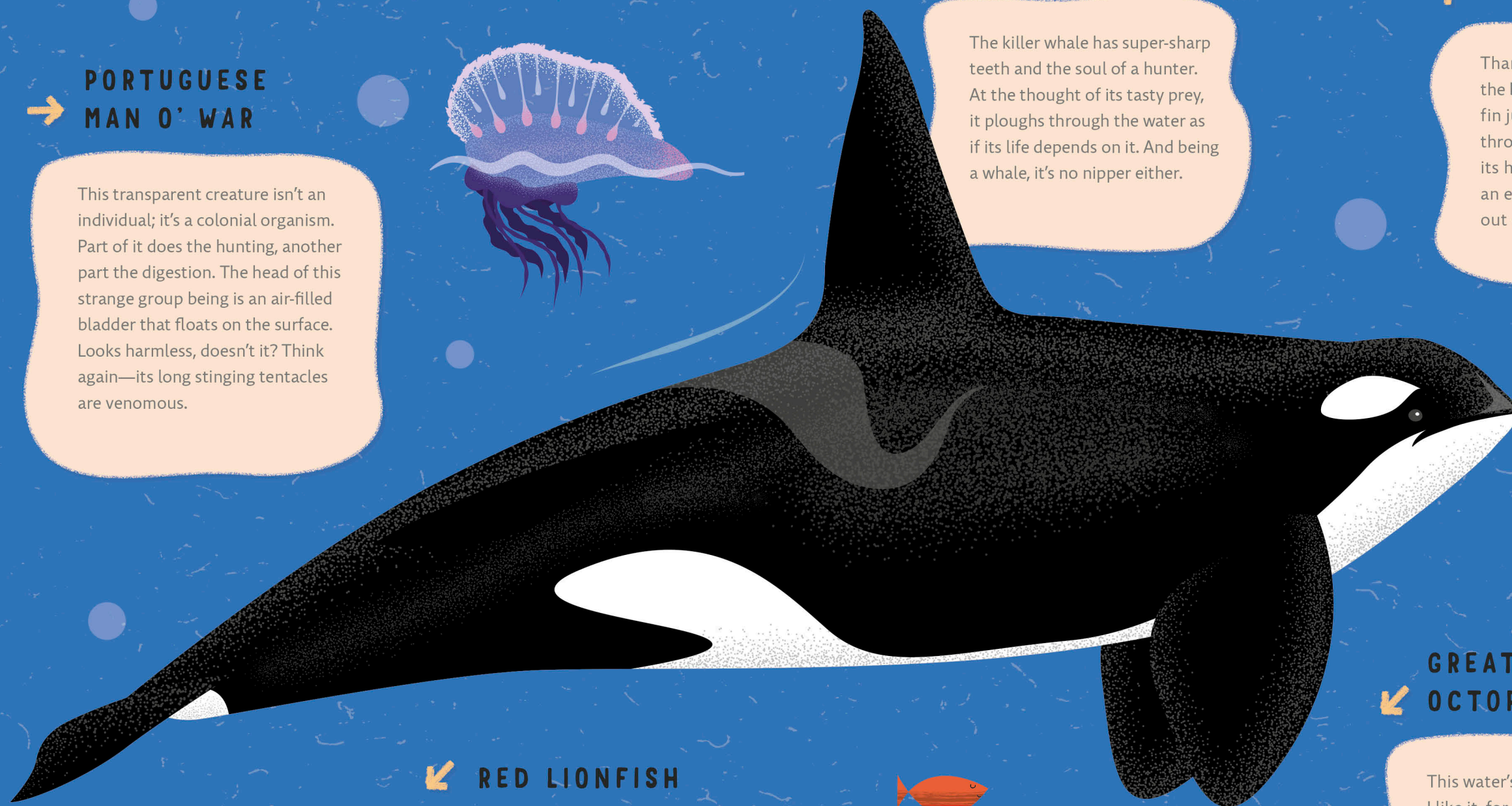
→ PORTUGUESE MAN O' WAR

This transparent creature isn't an individual; it's a colonial organism. Part of it does the hunting, another part the digestion. The head of this strange group being is an air-filled bladder that floats on the surface. Looks harmless, doesn't it? Think again—its long stinging tentacles are venomous.



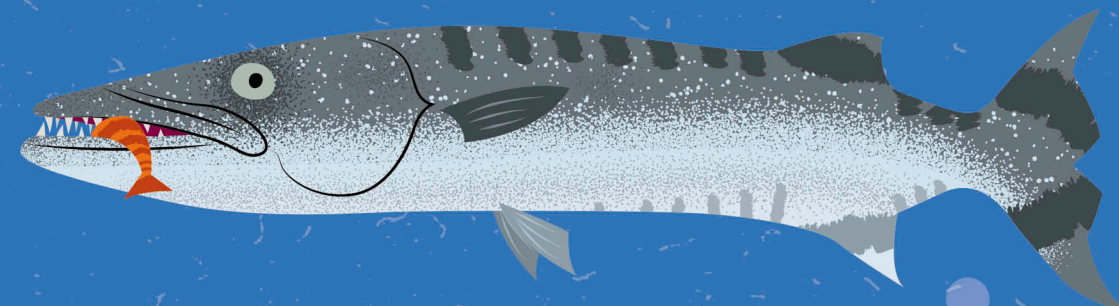
↓ KILLER WHALE

The killer whale has super-sharp teeth and the soul of a hunter. At the thought of its tasty prey, it ploughs through the water as if its life depends on it. And being a whale, it's no nipper either.



↑ BARRACUDA

Thanks to its super-slim body, the barracuda swishes its great tail fin just once to send it scooting through the water. Forever hungry, its hunts are over in the blink of an eye. If you value your life, stay out of its way.



→ PIRANHA

Piranhas swoop on innocent fish with their razor-sharp teeth, stripping them to the bones in the blink of an eye. These predators may not be large, but the strength of their jaws is more than impressive.



↓ BLUE-SPOTTED RIBBONTAIL RAY

Although rays often bury themselves in the sand of the seabed, they, too, are fond of fashion. Their arrival on the surface is well worth waiting for, as they glide around like birds. When hungry, they stab their prey with a venomous spine for a ready meal. That's right, rays are predators too.



↓ GREAT WHITE SHARK

Dolphins and seals, swim away sharpish! A great white shark—one of the world's fastest and most dangerous sharks—is lying in wait for you in the deep, and it'll drag you under before you know it. That's the kind of hunter it is.



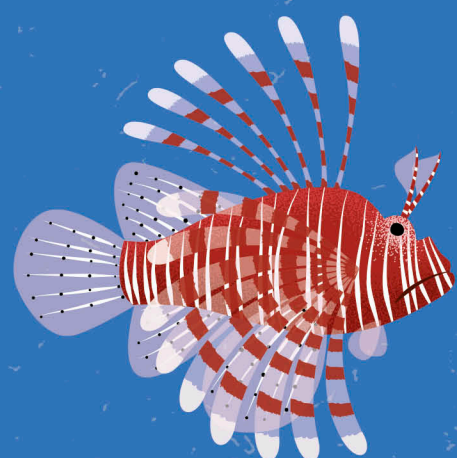
↙ GREATER BLUE-RINGED OCTOPUS

This water's lovely and warm, just as I like it, for I feel the cold easily, says this handsome ringed creature, as the waves bear it on its proud way. But we should stay well away from this octopus—beneath its colourful coat is a fierce venom.



↙ RED LIONFISH

The beautiful red lionfish hovers over corals, showing off its feather-like fins. But all the while its keen eyes are waiting for the slightest movement from its potential prey. When angered, it releases a venom. You'd better not mess with the lionfish!



VESSELS



↑ CANOE

As he paddles his canoe through calm water and whitewater, this brave black-haired Indian is so quiet that no one hears him. Shush! He's pursuing an enemy, so don't give him away.




→ PIRATE SHIP

Land ahoy! Island on the horizon! calls a pirate in triumph. The helmsman turns the ship's wheel and their schooner covers the last few yards to dry land. But what's this? Man overboard! Quick! Throw him the life ring!


← RAFT

You make a raft by binding several logs together. A raft like this is just the thing for lonely castaways—as long as they have something to eat and drink and there's no storm on the way.



I swim, you swim, we all swim! That's what the people, animals, plants and things on every page of this book say, because it's nothing other than a book about swimming and floating. It's as clear as day that fish and mermaids are good swimmers, but what about hedgehogs and bats? Take a look with us at who and what is a great swimmer, and how they do it. This fun book is filled with water and sea salt, and every now and then a great wave comes along — and it's all ready for you to explore. Pull up your sleeves, limber up and take the plunge! As you swim along, you'll see lovely pictures, and your strokes will get better and better. So, which do you want to start with?

Crawl or breaststroke?

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