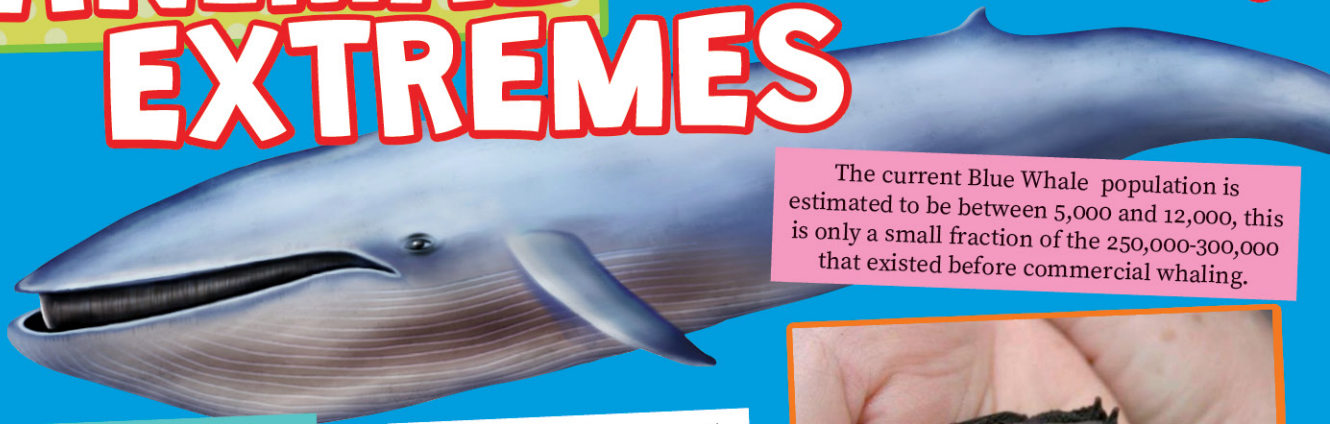


ANIMAL EXTREMES

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Schleich 



The current Blue Whale population is estimated to be between 5,000 and 12,000, this is only a small fraction of the 250,000-300,000 that existed before commercial whaling.

A Blue Whale can eat as much as 3.5 metric tons of krill in a day, that is the weight of two hippos.

Blue Whales swim at around eight kilometres an hour, but can go faster than 32 kilometres an hour if needed.

The Blue Whale can weigh as much as 40 African Elephants, or more than 2,500 people.

Blue Whales can blow water up to 9m in the air.



EXTRA ENORMOUS

Blue Whales are the largest animal in the world, they can grow up to 33 metres in length, that's longer than two school buses end to end. They weigh between 100 – 160 tonnes and have long, tapering bodies and a flat, U-shaped head with a prominent ridge running from the blow hole to the top of the upper lip. The tongue of a Blue Whale weighs around 2.7 tonnes and when their mouth is fully expanded it can hold up to 90 tonnes of food and water. Despite the size of their mouth, their throat dimensions will not allow them to swallow anything larger than the size of a beach ball. Awkward!

SUPER SMALL

Bumblebee Bats, also known as Kittie's Hog-nosed Bats, are the world's smallest bat, in fact they are arguably the world's smallest mammal. They are between 29 and 33mm in length, have no tail, a wingspan of approximately 170mm and they weigh 2g. They have reddish/brown or grey upper parts with their underside being pale in colour. They have dark coloured relatively wide wings with long tips that enables them to hover. Cute!



SUPER-SIZED SNAKE

The largest anaconda ever measured was almost 8.5m long with a girth of 111cm. She wasn't weighed at the time she was caught, but scientists estimate that she must have weighed over 227kg. The other snake that competes with the anaconda is the Asiatic Reticulated Python. The python holds the world's record for length of a snake, with the longest ever measured at 10m. Eeeeekkkk!

MARVELLOUS MIMIC

The amazing Mimic Octopus, has the ability to mimic other creatures. The octopus can mimic the likeness and movements of more than 15 different species, including Sea Snakes, Giant Crabs and Stingrays. The Mimic Octopus imitates other animals by changing its colour and contorting its body and arms. For example, the Mimic Octopus will change its colour to black and yellow and bury all but 2 of its arms to make itself look like a Banded Sea Snake to scare off predators. Cool!



Scallops can have up to 100 eyes around the edge of their shell, the simple eyes are capable of detecting light, shadow and motion, but cannot make out shapes.

The Howler Monkey is the loudest land animal, its howl can be heard from as far as 5km away.

A Shrew will eat up to 3 times its body weight in a day.