



Record Breakers

Deepest diver

The Cuvier's beaked whale currently holds the record for the deepest and longest dives. One individual was tracked diving to a depth of nearly 10,000 feet. During the dive, it held its breath for 222 minutes — that's nearly four hours! Scientists don't know how often or why these elusive whales make these dives.

Largest sea creature

It wouldn't be a list of sea creatures without the blue whale. Weighing over 400,000 pounds, blue whales are the largest creatures to have lived ever, including the biggest dinosaurs.

Longest sea creature

It may seem odd that the blue whale isn't also the longest sea creature, but that honour goes to the lion's mane jellyfish. These tentacled creatures might not be anywhere near as heavy as the blue whale, but their tentacles can reach up to 120 feet in length. A blue whale can only manage a relatively measly 100 feet in comparison. Nobody know why the tentacles of a lion's mane jellyfish are so long - they make it easier for predators to attack them, and they often get caught in ocean debris.

Smallest sea mammals

This record doesn't go to a whale, dolphin or porpoise, but actually to a diminutive species of otter called the marine otter. These adorable little "sea cats" only reach lengths of around 3 feet and weigh little more than 5 kg. They spend most of their time at sea, only occasionally returning to land.



Longest migration

It isn't just birds that migrate throughout the year. Some sea creatures undertake mammoth journeys as well. Which creature travels the furthest depends on which source you read. Some marine biologists claim that it was a female great white shark that completed a 22,200 km round trip from South Africa to western Australia. Others claim it was a western gray whale that swam from Russia to Mexico and back again - a total trip of around 22,500 km. Whichever one holds the record, they both deserve a pat on the fins for their stamina and resilience!

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Which is the only animal on the list that is longer than the blue whale?
2. How much can a blue whale weigh?
3. What is another name for marine otters?
4. How far did the great white shark mentioned in the article migrate?
5. How long did the Cuvier's beaked whale hold its breath for?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

Find and copy a word that tells the reader that Cuvier's beaked whales are hard to find.

V

What does the word "tentacled" tell you about a creature?

S

Why is it a bad idea for the lion's mane jellyfish to have such long tentacles?

V

Write a synonym for "mammoth" in this context.

I

What evidence is there that the author thinks the great white shark and western gray whale are inspiring?