

# 海邊的星星 巨人

Lesson Plan Outline



海洋委員會海洋保育署

OCEAN CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATION,  
OCEAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL



# 01 Message from the Director General

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The ocean is full of life – tiny fish, big fish, and creatures of every shape and size. Among them is one very special friend: the whale shark. It may be the biggest fish in the whole world, but it's also one of the gentlest. **When a whale shark slowly swims through the waters around Taiwan, it feels like magic – like the ocean is smiling at us.**

To kids, the whale shark is a friendly giant, almost like a starry superhero with spots that shine like the night sky. To grown-ups, it's a reminder to be amazed and to show respect. Even though it eats only the tiniest plankton, it plays a very important role in keeping the ocean healthy.

Every child carries an ocean in their heart, and every ocean has its own story. The whale shark guides us from being curious to truly understanding, from wanting to get close to learning how to care. In this picture book, we'll discover not just the whale shark, but also the wide, wonderful ocean – and the promise we all share to look after it.

May this picture book be the key that opens the door to the ocean. As you meet the whale shark in these pages, may you feel its gentle gaze, and may it plant a small seed of love for the oceans, so our blue home can shine brightly, forever and ever.

*Shian-Yu Lu*

## 02 Author's Note

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Long, long ago, my father would recite *The Starry Giant by the Sea* to me every night during the winter, allowing me to grow a broader vision of the ocean right before our tribe. When my father spoke of the young boy rowing the wooden boat he had built, freely and unrestrainedly enjoying the serenity beneath the starry night sky over the vast ocean, and the peaceful drifting upon the ocean surface, my heart was filled with longing for the ocean.

Whenever I think of the ocean and the vast expanse nurturing countless marine creatures, I feel like the young boy in the story, setting my dream in motion to become a marine writer. Now, my dreams came true! Dear children, **the ocean has no boundaries; it is an ideal world for you to realize your dreams.** You will eventually have the power to embrace them. As long as you persist and never give up, you are that young boy.

夏爱. 薛三华



# 03 Picture Book Philosophy

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Through the warm interaction between the whale shark and the boy, this picture book offers children a heartwarming adventure.

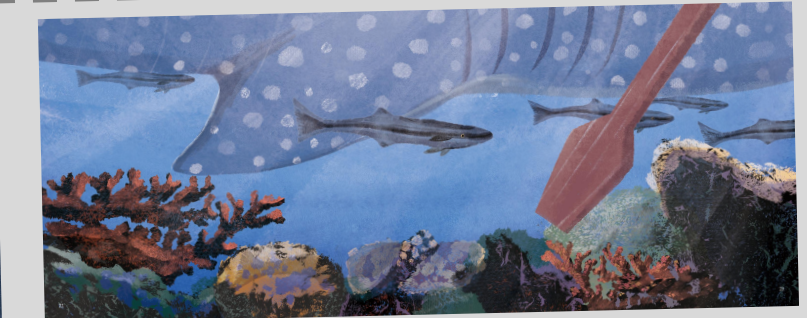
It introduces the world's largest fish, stimulating curiosity about the ocean while showcasing its grandeur. The gentle connection between the boy and the whale shark guides children toward understanding proper conservation principles, laying a foundation for ecological awareness and environmental education.

An illustration of a young boy with dark skin and hair, wearing grey shorts, sitting on a rocky ledge and looking down at a large blue whale shark with white spots swimming in the water. The background shows a rocky coastline with green foliage and a bright, hazy sky.

# 04 Story Overview

Long, long ago, a young boy named Romagpit dreamed of a secret cove filled with stars and a giant fish. Following the path from his dream at dawn, he truly encountered a small whale shark with silvery-white spots. From that day on, Romagpit and the whale shark played together in the cove and grew up side by side. Years later, Romagpit built his own wooden boat, and the whale shark had grown into a massive, starry giant. Together, they sailed across the ocean, traveling under waves and starlit skies, their deep friendship shining like the Milky Way.

# 05 Story Text





A long, long time ago, there lived a young couple in a little village. They had a son named Romagpit.

One cool autumn night, Romagpit had a sweet dream.

He dreamed of a hidden cove by the sea, where a giant fish — just as big as he was — swam around.



The cove sparkled with stars, and the stars became his best friends.

When Romagpit woke up, the night sky was deep and dark, but filled with twinkling stars — like the sky had eyes.

“Is there really a place like that? And stars in the sea?” Romagpit wondered.



As dawn broke, a soft light stretched across the sky and painted a wide, wide ocean along the horizon.

Romagpit's parents headed up the mountain to plant sweet potatoes, and Romagpit walked toward the sea.

He followed the path from his dream.

All the village kids were playing at the beach. The beach was their classroom where they learned about the ways of the sea.

The kids had sun-kissed skin, dark like little pieces of charcoal, and they ran around like playful green sea turtles.

Laughter filled the air — like the beach was a slice of paradise.



The beach was also full of wooden boats from the village. When the sun peeked over the mountains, dozens of boats set off to sea to fish.

“Someday, I’ll be a sailor too! A real sailor!”

Romagpit stared at the boats, dreaming of sailing across the big blue ocean.



Romagpit walked carefully through a trail hidden by screwpine, thinking of the path in his dream. He walked for a long time until he came to a rough stretch of jagged reef .

The air smelled salty!

Romagpit peeked out from behind the trees.

“Wow! Just like in my dream!”

In front of the quiet beach, a wide opening — ten meters across — led straight to the sea. The waves rolled in and out, like the beach was breathing — a deep, gentle breath with the sea.



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“This is my secret place!” Romagpit dipped his feet into the water and thought, “Will the fish from my dream appear?”

The sun rose higher, glowing warm and bright. Tiny fish swam in and out of the cove's opening with the tide.

Soon, finger-sized fish darted into the cove, wiggling near Romagpit's feet. They stirred up the sand as they gobbled plankton, making little swirls in the water.



Suddenly, Romagpit heard a loud “Baa!” from nearby goats.

He looked up — and there it was! A fish his size glided in from the reef and circled the cove, as if returning home.

The fish swam closer, and Romagpit saw that it was covered in shiny silver- white spots.

“A fish and stars... It’s the whale shark from my dream! How’s it going, my friend?” Romagpit whispered gently.



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The little whale shark stopped swimming and looked right at Romagpit.

It circled the cove a few more times, then came to a stop right in front of him.

"Can we meet here every day?" Romagpit asked. The whale shark swam in circles again, like it was saying, "Yes!"



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From then on, they met at the cove every day.

The little sardines that came in with the tide were the whale shark's favorite meal.

In their little cove, Romagpit and the little whale shark played and grew each day.



Romagpit and the little whale shark became best friends.

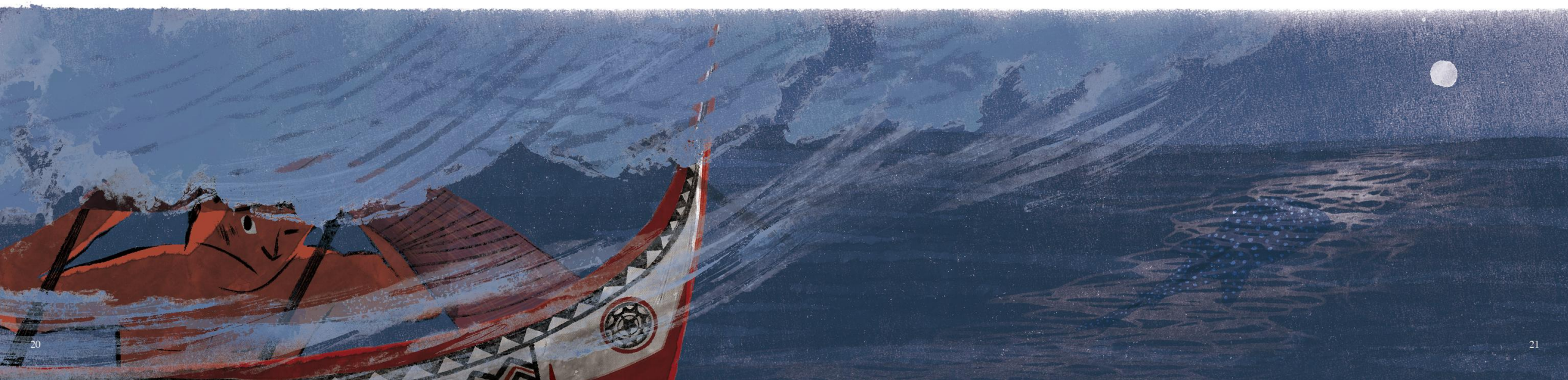
"As long as you're here, I feel warm inside — like I have superpowers. The whole world feels brighter and better," Romagpit said.

The whale shark wagged its tail in reply.

Years passed, and Romagpit grew from a little boy into a teenager.

He built his very first wooden boat next to the cove. And the whale shark grew too — from just one meter long into a gentle giant, four or five meters long!

When spring arrived, Romagpit and the whale shark were ready to chase their dream together: Sail to the Pacific!"



One early morning, they said goodbye to the secret cove, to their families, their tribe, and their island. They set sail on their big adventure.

They headed southeast, with the rising sun lighting their way.

Romagpit rowed and rowed, growing stronger with every paddle.

The little whale shark also grew stronger, learning about tides and ocean temperatures.

It even helped Romagpit steer clear of storms.

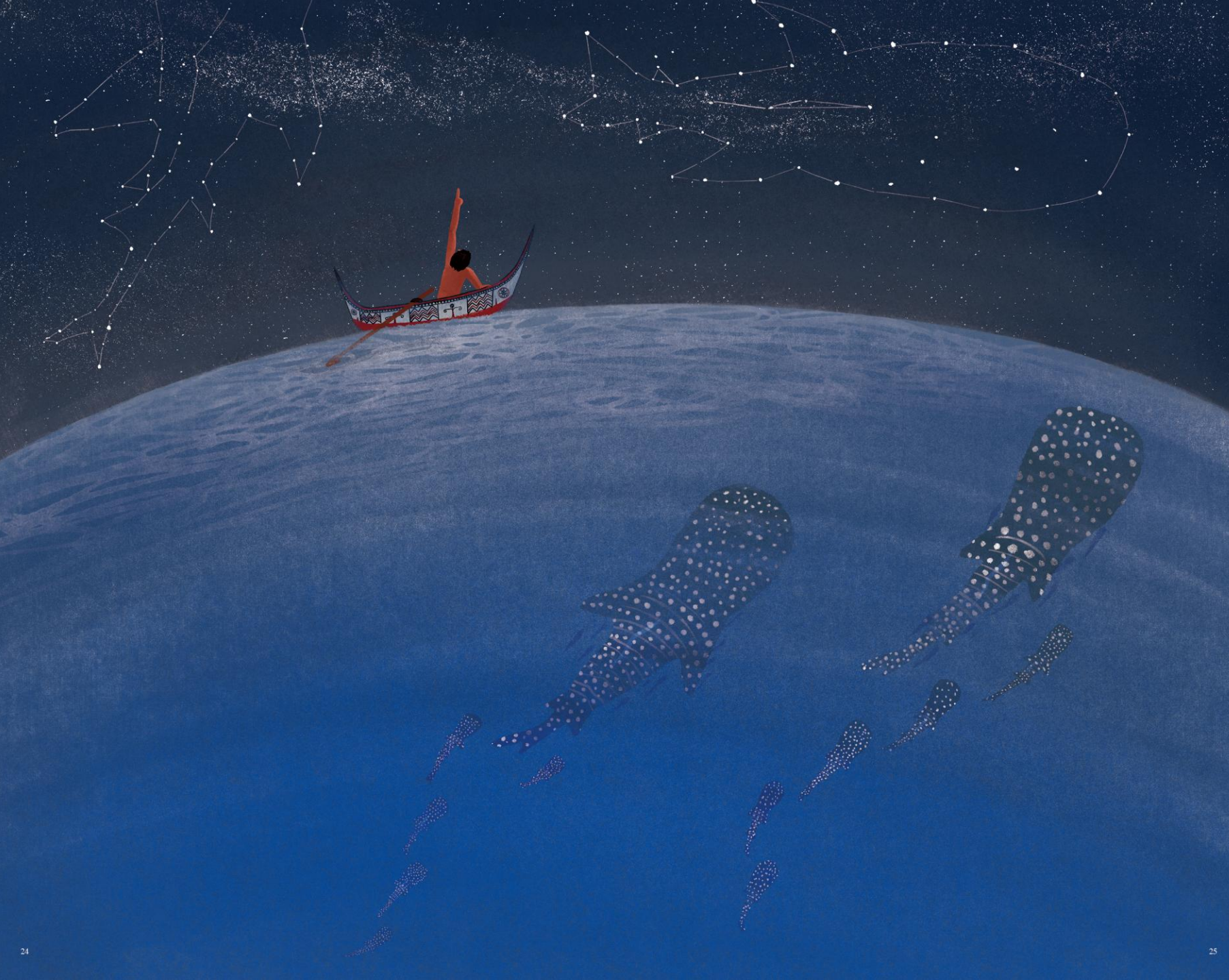
At night, the moonlight made a silver path on the water.

The whale shark led the way, and Romagpit followed in his handmade boat.

They started from the coastal waters —



then swam through bright, colorful shallow seas...



and finally reached the open ocean.

The boy and the whale shark faced many waves and many challenges together.

Their friendship grew stronger and stronger. and the endless sea.... became their playground.

One night turned into many nights, and many nights turned into years.

Romagpit became a skilled sailor, who could even read the stars.

The whale shark's body sparkled with white spots, like the countless stars in the sky. In the moonlight, it shimmered silver. Even its babies twinkled like stars too.



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Romagpit started stargazing. “That’s the North Star. That’s the Southern Cross.”  
They rested on new islands.

The whale shark swished its tail, as if asking, “Are you all right, my friend?”

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Romagpit tapped the water gently with his paddle and whispered, “I’m all right.”

At night, the whale shark swam close to the boat, so Romagpit could float gently  
and sleep safely.



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The whale shark's silvery glow were like a galaxy moving through the sea.

Romagpit's wooden boat slid quietly across the waves.

Together with the whale shark, they traveled through the a river of stars.

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They were each other's companions, like stars in the sky – just look up, and you'll find someone watching over you.

"As long as you're here, I feel warm inside, and the whole world feels brighter."

They kept sailing through the ocean, writing their story with the sun and moon as their guide.



06

**The Starry Giant  
by the Sea –  
Whale Shark**

# W h a l e S h a r k

**Other Names:** Tofu Shark, Gentle Giant Shark

**English Name:** Whale Shark

**Scientific Name:** *Rhincodon typus*

An artistic illustration of whale sharks swimming in the ocean. The water is depicted with soft, wavy blue lines. In the foreground, two large whale sharks are shown from a side profile, swimming towards the left. They have dark blue bodies covered in white spots and stripes. In the background, two more whale sharks are visible, one slightly above and to the right of the other, also swimming in the same direction. The overall style is soft and painterly.

The largest fish in the world, reaching up to 20 meters!

A true shark, not a whale. Though it is a shark, the whale shark has no aggressive tendencies, earning its reputation as a gentle starry giant of the sea.

# Starry Giant – Secret File

## Starry Spots

Their body color ranges from gray-brown to blue-brown or dark brown, with numerous light gray or white checkerboard spots that resemble a beautiful starry sky underwater.

## Starry Giant – Diet Notes

Although whale sharks have large mouths and numerous coarse teeth, they are filter feeders. They gulp large amounts of seawater, filter plankton and other small organisms, and expel excess water through their gills.

## Dorsal Ridges

Three long, prominent ridges run along each side of the back, reducing water resistance.

## Wide, Flat Head

Unlike typical sharks with cylindrical bodies, whale sharks have a broad and flattened head.

## Gill Slits

Like other sharks, whale sharks have five pairs of gill slits, allowing them to filter seawater efficiently.





# 07

## **Friends of the Starry Giant**

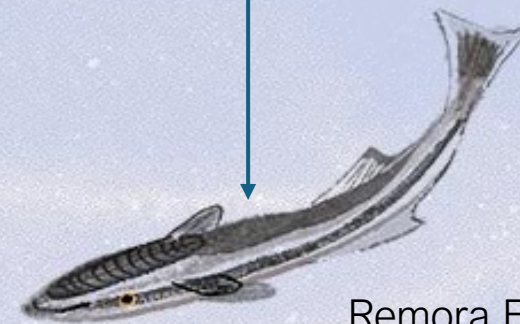
## Companion Fish

When cruising, whale sharks are often accompanied by large pelagic fish such as mackerel and tuna. In some places, fishermen also take the presence of whale sharks as a sign that fish schools may be nearby.



## “Sticky Buddy” – Remora Fish

Remora fish attach themselves to whale sharks using suction pads on their heads. They hitch a ride, feeding on leftovers and cleaning parasites off the whale shark, making them the shark’s loyal little buddies.



Remora Fish

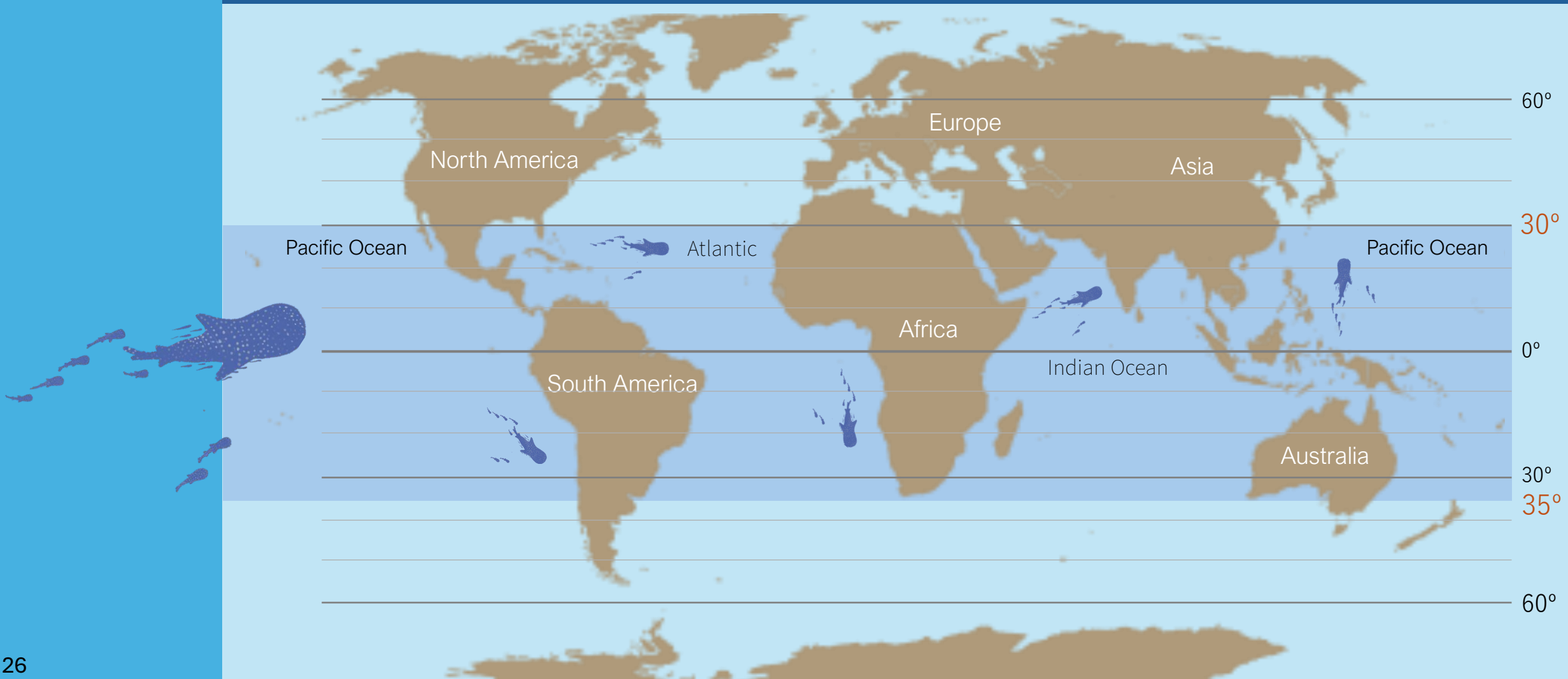


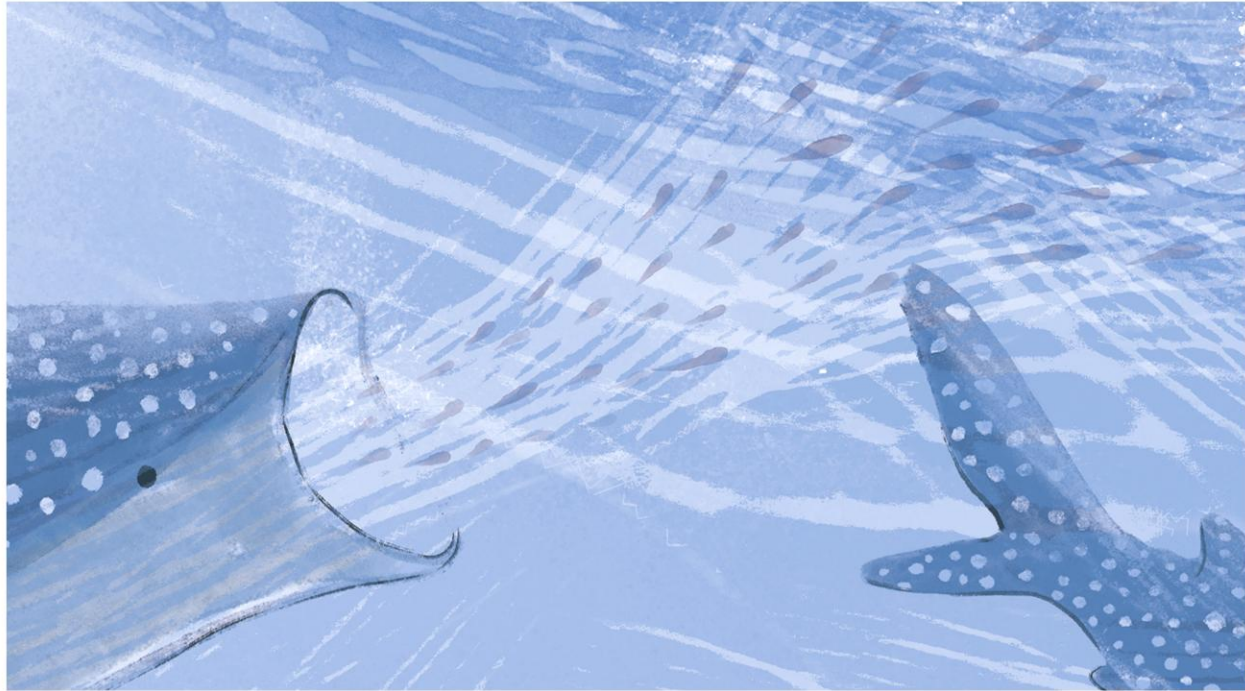
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## The Starry Giant's Journey

## Travel Route


Massive whale sharks swim slowly and gracefully. Their migratory routes extend from 30°N to 35°S, covering tropical and subtropical regions of the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans. They are visible near coasts, in offshore waters, and in open oceans. Whale sharks often stay near the ocean surface but can dive as deep as 1,982 meters to feed or rest.





09

## Reproduction of the Starry Giant

An illustration of a young boy with dark skin and black hair, wearing a white t-shirt and red pants, sitting on a rocky outcrop. He is looking up with a smile at two large whale sharks swimming in the water. The whale sharks are blue with white spots and stripes. The background is a light blue sky with soft clouds. A small green lizard is perched on the rock next to the boy.

Whale sharks are aplacental viviparous (formerly called ovoviviparous). A female whale shark can carry up to 300 embryos at once, which is currently the highest number of embryos carried by any known shark. The babies hatch inside the mother's uterus before being born. Taiwan is the only country with documented cases of pregnant whale sharks.

Newborn whale sharks are 46 to 64 cm long. Growth is slow; reaching adult size (8 to 9 meters) takes roughly 30 years.



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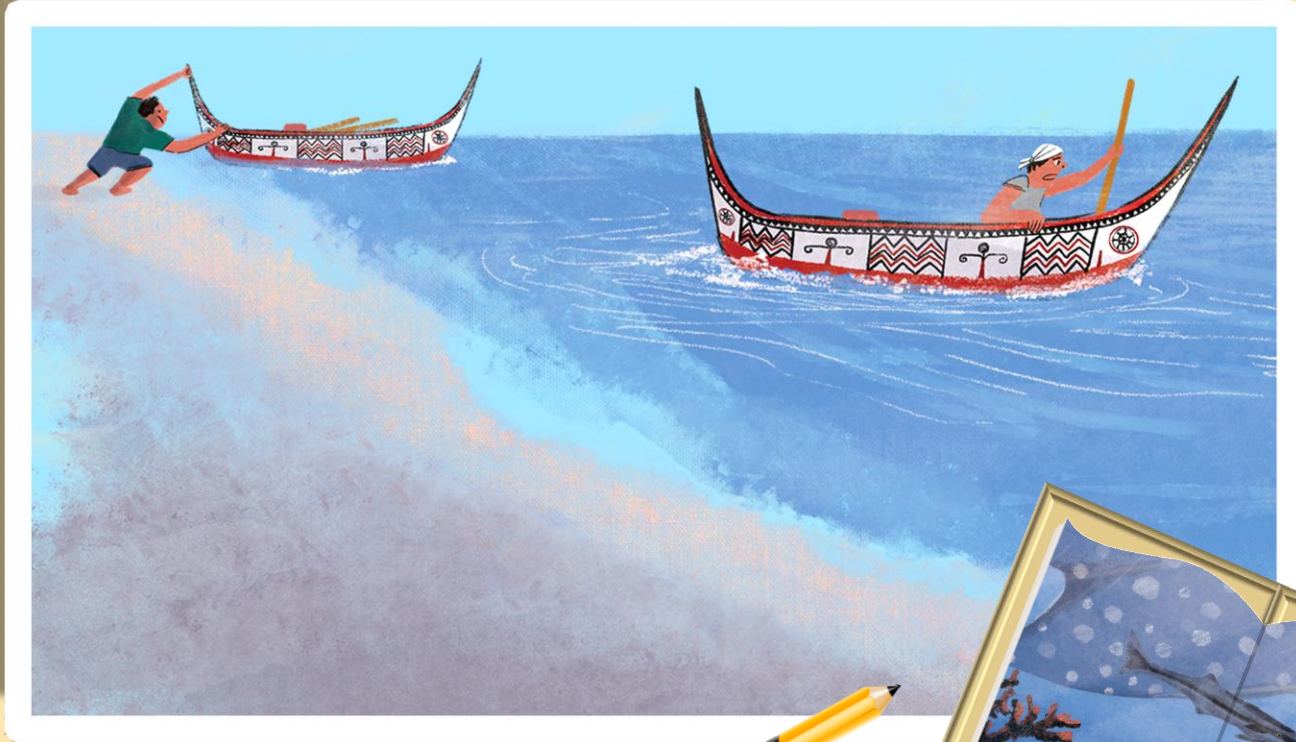
## Protecting the Starry Giant

Sometimes, whale sharks get lost, become stranded, or accidentally enter set nets. If you encounter a stranded whale shark, please do not touch it. Instead, call your local **1999 hotline** or the **Coast Guard Administration at 118** to alert trained professionals. In places such as Taitung and Hualien, set net owners have helped release endangered whale sharks back into the wild after receiving a report.



For more information on marine conservation, please visit the official website of the Ocean Conservation Administration, Ocean Affairs Council.





# 11

## My Starry Giant Notes

Use your imagination to draw your own gentle starry giant – the whale shark:



Class : \_\_\_\_\_ Seat No. : \_\_\_\_\_ Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Weather : \_\_\_\_\_ Location : \_\_\_\_\_

