



Look inside for information on creatures  
big and small!

# Jr. Animal Scientist

MARCH 2018



**All Creatures  
Large and Tiny**

# All Creatures Large and Tiny



## Advantages of being tiny:

- **Camouflage:** Tiny animals can easily hide from predators.
- **Mature faster:** Being tiny means you go from baby to adult much faster.
- **Hibernate:** Small animals like hamsters and hummingbirds have mastered hibernating (the only large animal to hibernate is a bear, although because body temperature doesn't drop that much in bears, some scientists debate if they are really hibernating!).
- **Species survival:** Tiny animals are less likely to become extinct.



Photo: iStock / laurenpretorius

## Advantages of being large:

- **Not easy prey:** Large animals have fewer predators.
- **Fat and energy storage:** Being large means you can store more resources in your body.
- **Speed:** Large animals travel farther in shorter time.
- **Thermoregulation:** Large animals maintain body temperature better than small animals.

# Gentle Giants and the Apollo of Dogs

**Great Danes** are athletic with sleek elegant bodies that are probably larger than yours!

While their ancient ancestor was a Mastiff-like dog bred to hunt wild boars, today the Great Dane isn't likely to win a fight. Instead, these gentle giants are great family pets, and use their ancestor's protective instincts to ensure their family's safety.

Because Great Danes are such large dogs, their life span is only 7-10 years, making every moment precious (Larger dogs are more prone to joint and skeletal issues and heart problems).

Who wouldn't want to spend time with these big balls of cuteness?



Photo: Kevin Scott Ramos/Guinness World Records 2013 Book/AP

**World Record holding Great Dane: Zeus!** Zeus was a mammoth dog that held the Guinness World Record for being the world's tallest dog until his death at age 5. Zeus was 44 inches tall and when he stood on his hind legs he was taller than most basketball players at 7-foot-4-inches.

## Fun Facts:

- The Great Dane is the 24th most popular dog breed in the United States.
- Historically, Great Danes' ears were cropped (now banned in several countries) to reduce injury while hunting.

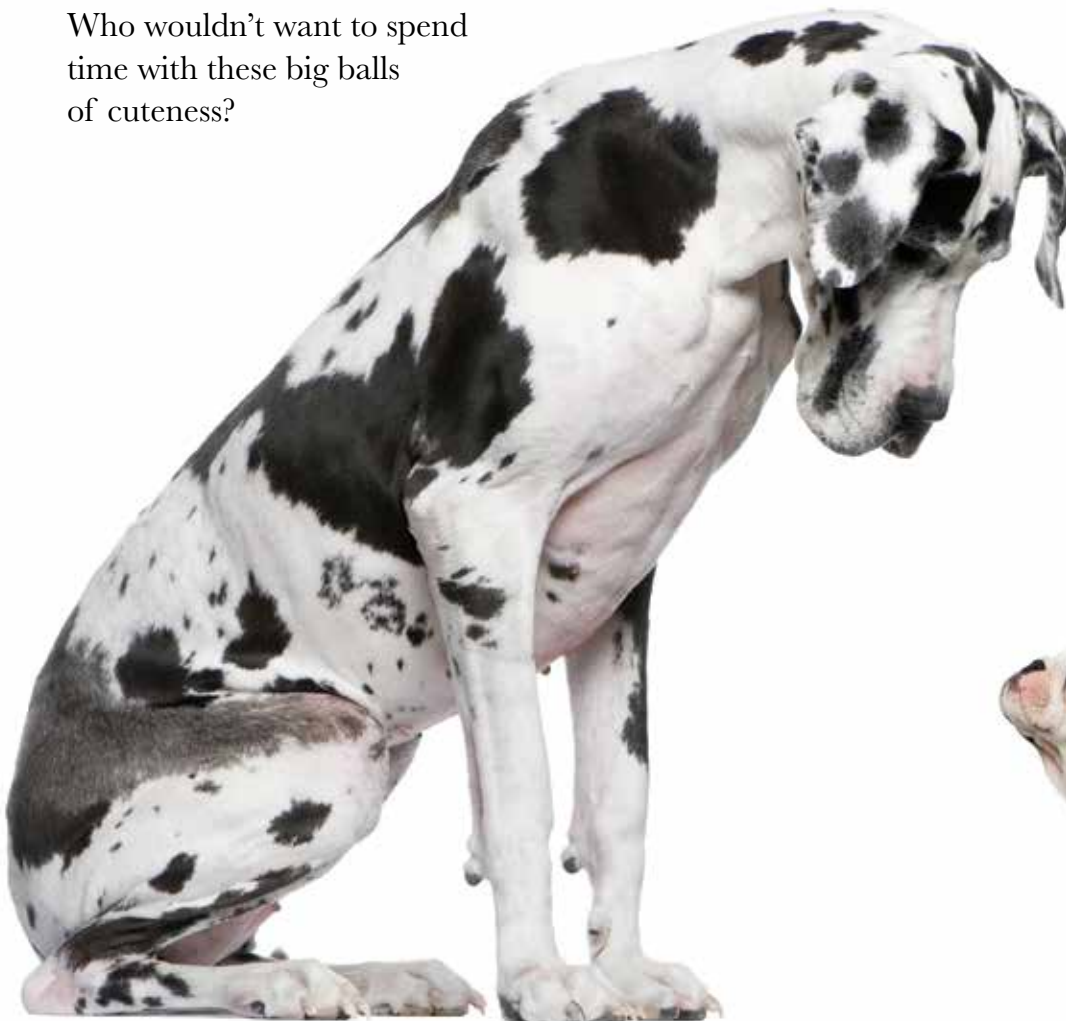


Photo: iStock / GlobalP

# Small But True

Are you allergic to dogs? Well you won't be to the **Affenpinscher** because of their hypoallergenic fur. These little rat terriers will keep your mom happy, because of their minimal shedding. Their wiry-hair appearance requires minimal upkeep, shaping their fur only every 3 months.

These extremely intelligent dogs make great house pets, and are affectionate to human and animal alike. The Affenpinscher is one of the smallest dogs in the world at 9-12 inches tall. Unlike our gentle giant the Great Dane, these little mighty mites live to be between 12 and 14 years of age.

The Affenpinscher originated in Germany where their name means "monkey-like terrier". Their purpose was to catch rats in homes, stables and shops. They were most fondly known as "ratters".

## Fun Facts:

- The average litter size for the Affenpinscher is only 3 puppies.
- Almost all Affenpinschers have dark or black colored eyes.
- The Affenpinscher is known as the oldest "toy" dog breed.



# Crawling up Big Foot's Spine

The large body and long legs of the **Japanese Spider Crab** make it seem quite vicious and scary! However, because their legs are so long (18ft from claw to claw) they are very weak.

This species of marine crab lives (with a natural lifespan of 100 years old) in the waters surrounding Japan at depths of 490-980 feet. Due to their large size, these crabs are known as “trophy” animals to hunters.

The Japanese Spider Crab is an omnivore (an animal eats both plants and animals) and scavenger. Some of their favorite meals are mollusks, plants and algae.



Photo: iStock / cookelma

## Fun Facts:

- Even though the Japanese Spider Crab can be found in deep waters, they only migrate 160 feet to their breeding ground.
- The younger crabs are more worried about their looks than the adults because they like to dress themselves in kelp. What fashionistas!
- An adult Japanese Spider Crab can weigh up to 42 pounds (19kg).

# An Animal's An Animal, No Matter How Small

Small but clever, the **Pea Crab** (a parasite), lives and travels connected to a host. It flourishes in a variety of oysters and mussels. Not only does it use the host to move around, but it steals its food!

The Pea Crab is found in the warm waters near Georgia and South Carolina. The female Pea Crab spends its day luxuriating attached to its host, while the male Pea Crab, must leave his host to find the female.

The Pea Crab only ranges from 0.13 to 0.8 inches (3.2 to 20.2 millimeters). His intelligence helps him thrive, not his size.



Photo: iStock / mastersky

## Fun Facts:

- The Pea Crab gained its name, because it is close to the size of a pea.
- Pea Crabs have an exoskeleton (a skeleton on the outside).

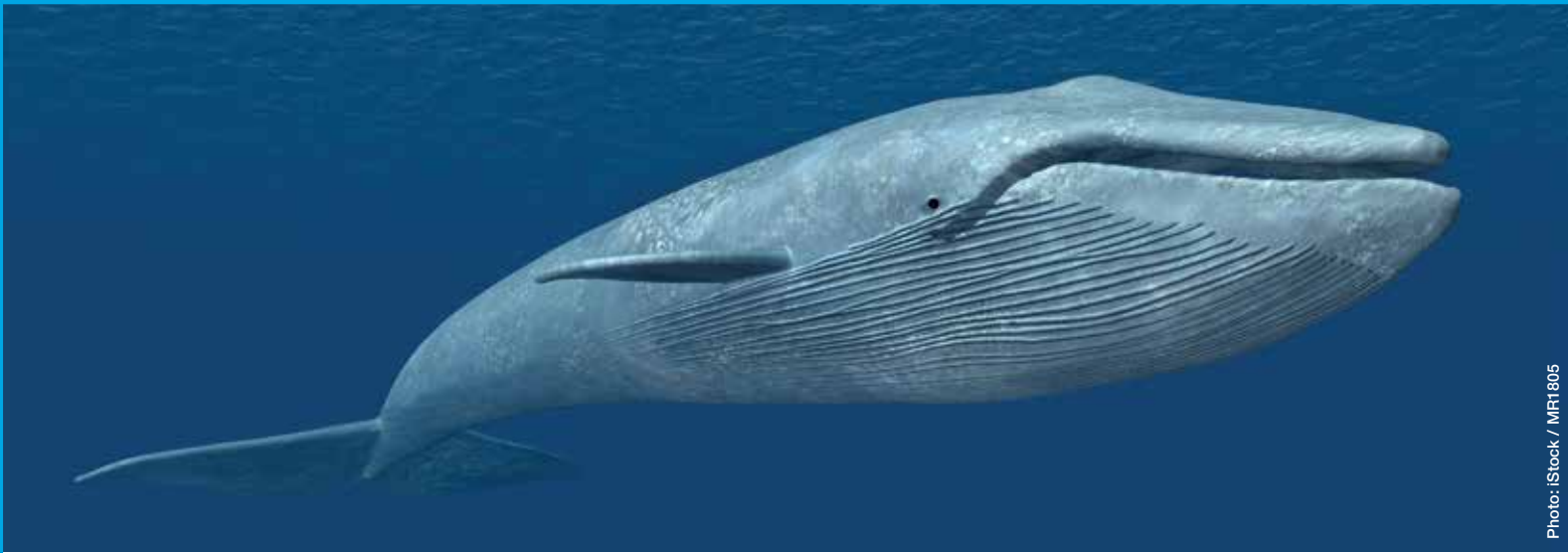


Photo: iStock / MRT805

## Red Fish, Blue Fish, Very BIG Fish

Not really a fish, the **Blue Whale** is a large and mighty marine mammal that weighs in at over three hundred thousand pounds. They are carnivorous, and must eat as many as forty million krill a day to maintain their size.

Although known to be the largest animal to live on earth, some scientists believe the Blue Whale may have had an even larger ancestor. Wow, their ancestor must be big, because the Blue Whales can be as long as eighty-two feet.

During their long lifespan of eighty to one hundred and ten years, this majestic animal travels far and is found in every ocean in the world. They can travel up to seventy-five miles in one day. The Blue Whale is endangered!

### Fun Facts:

- Their heart alone is the size of a small car.
- The female will produce more than fifty gallons of milk per day for her young.
- Baby Blue Whales (called calves) will gain over nine pounds per day while nursing.



aiambaninyo.wordpress.com/tag/fish

### Fun Facts:

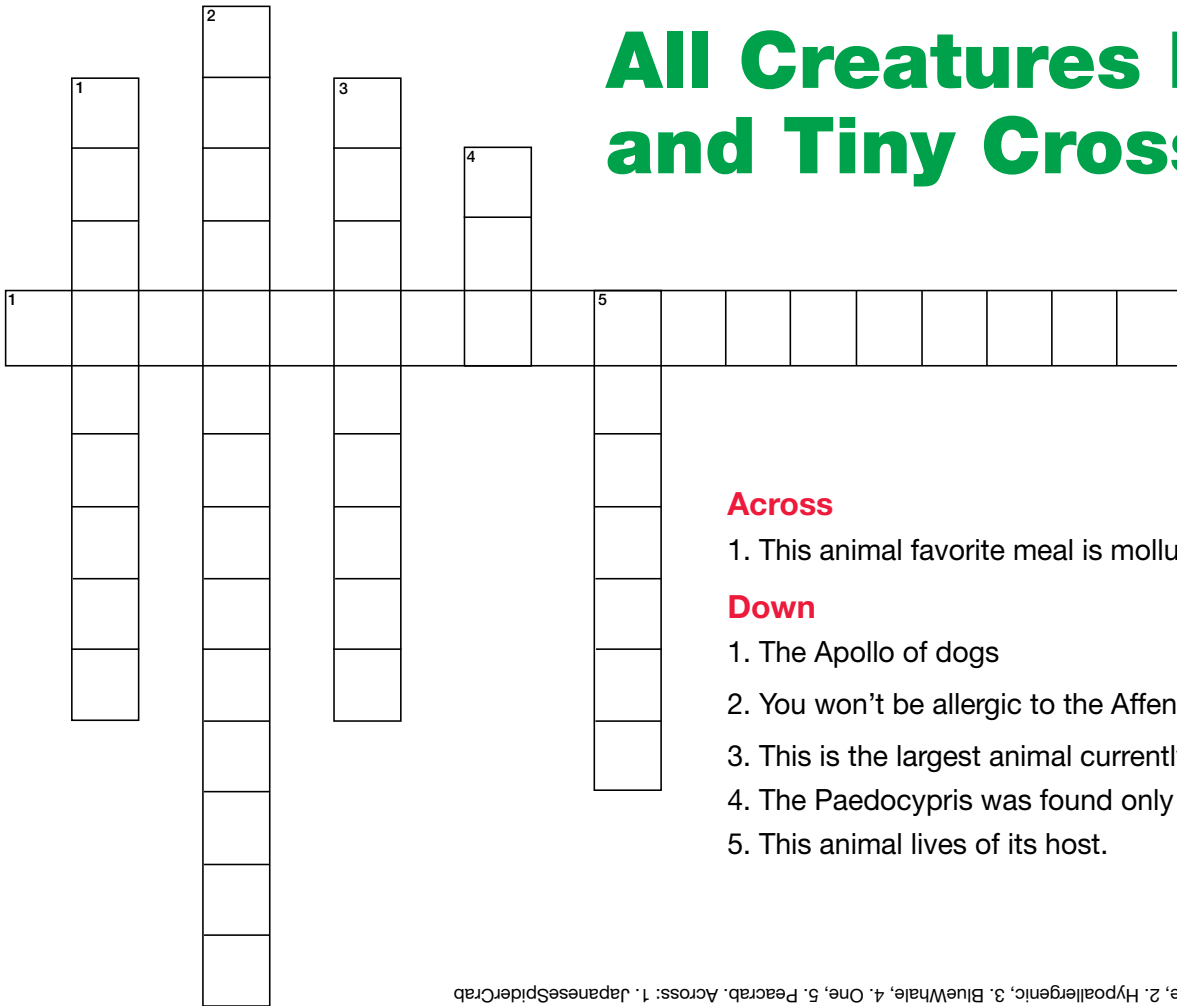
- The Paedocypris is the world's smallest fish.
- Their family name "Cyprinidae" means Carp and Minnows.
- Where the Paedocypris lives has such a low pH that they are essentially living in vinegar.

## Come See It, If You Can

Tactfully hiding in the Blackwater peat swamps of Indonesia, the world's smallest fish, is eating deluxe plankton. The **Paedocypris** eat what is smaller than them, measuring at only an average of 7.9 mm in length, this is pretty tricky.

Discovered only a decade ago, the Paedocypris has a partially see-through body, and reduced head skeleton. This unfortunately leaves the Paedocypris with very little protection from the outside world. Though, there is very little information known about this tiny animal, their lives are already in danger. Many of the trees that are within their swamp habitat have caught fire and are causing the known Paedocypris groups to become endangered.

# All Creatures Large and Tiny Crossword



## Across

1. This animal favorite meal is mollusks.

## Down

1. The Apollo of dogs

2. You won't be allergic to the Affenpinscher because it?

3. This is the largest animal currently living on earth.

4. The Paedocypris was found only \_\_\_\_\_ decade ago.

5. This animal lives of its host.

ANSWERS: Down: 1. Great Dane, 2. Hypoallergenic, 3. Blue Whale, 4. One, 5. Peacrab. Across: 1. Japanese Spider Crab

## Word Search

BIG  
 BLUEWHALE  
 GREATDANE  
 MASTIFF  
 OMNIVORE  
 PAEDOCYPRIS  
 RATTERS  
 TINY

V	H	A	E	N	A	D	T	A	E	R	G	E	X	O
R	L	B	D	E	L	R	P	A	L	P	L	R	P	P
I	G	V	A	T	D	V	D	H	A	G	V	O	P	Z
A	E	X	G	K	R	F	V	E	R	V	L	V	P	T
R	T	L	W	A	F	A	D	R	B	J	T	I	Q	I
M	G	K	A	I	T	O	T	I	X	E	O	N	M	N
R	L	L	T	H	C	Z	G	T	T	L	Z	M	G	Y
T	L	S	A	Y	W	C	H	W	E	G	G	O	R	M
C	A	X	P	K	C	E	Z	I	I	R	H	Y	Y	F
M	P	R	I	H	X	Q	U	V	U	H	S	A	U	F
S	I	X	N	P	X	U	I	L	N	C	Z	Q	S	N
S	E	A	C	R	A	B	M	D	B	W	A	F	N	B
N	O	D	L	Z	V	S	W	J	O	W	P	A	M	W
V	A	T	G	X	B	Z	V	S	K	X	P	D	E	S

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