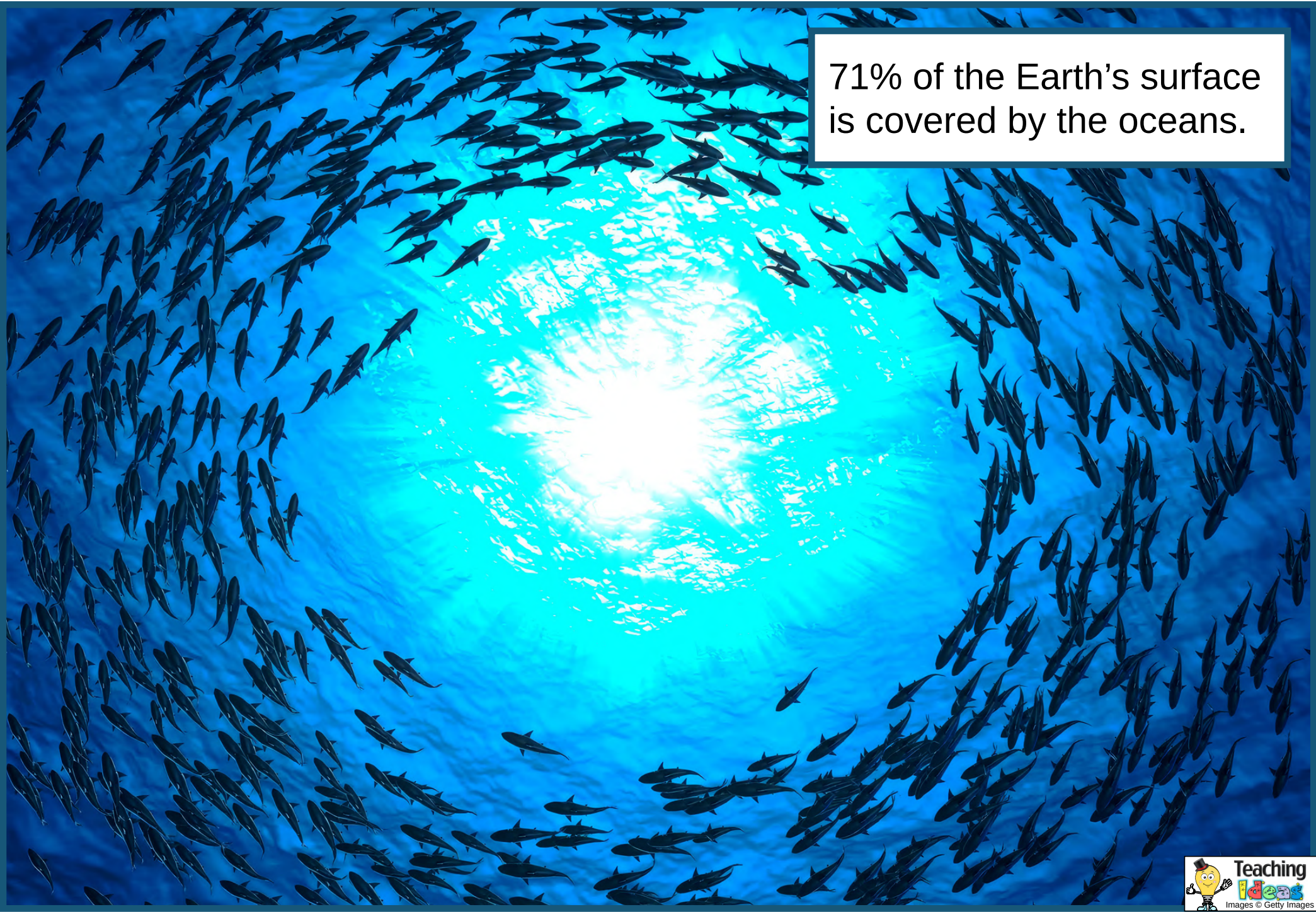
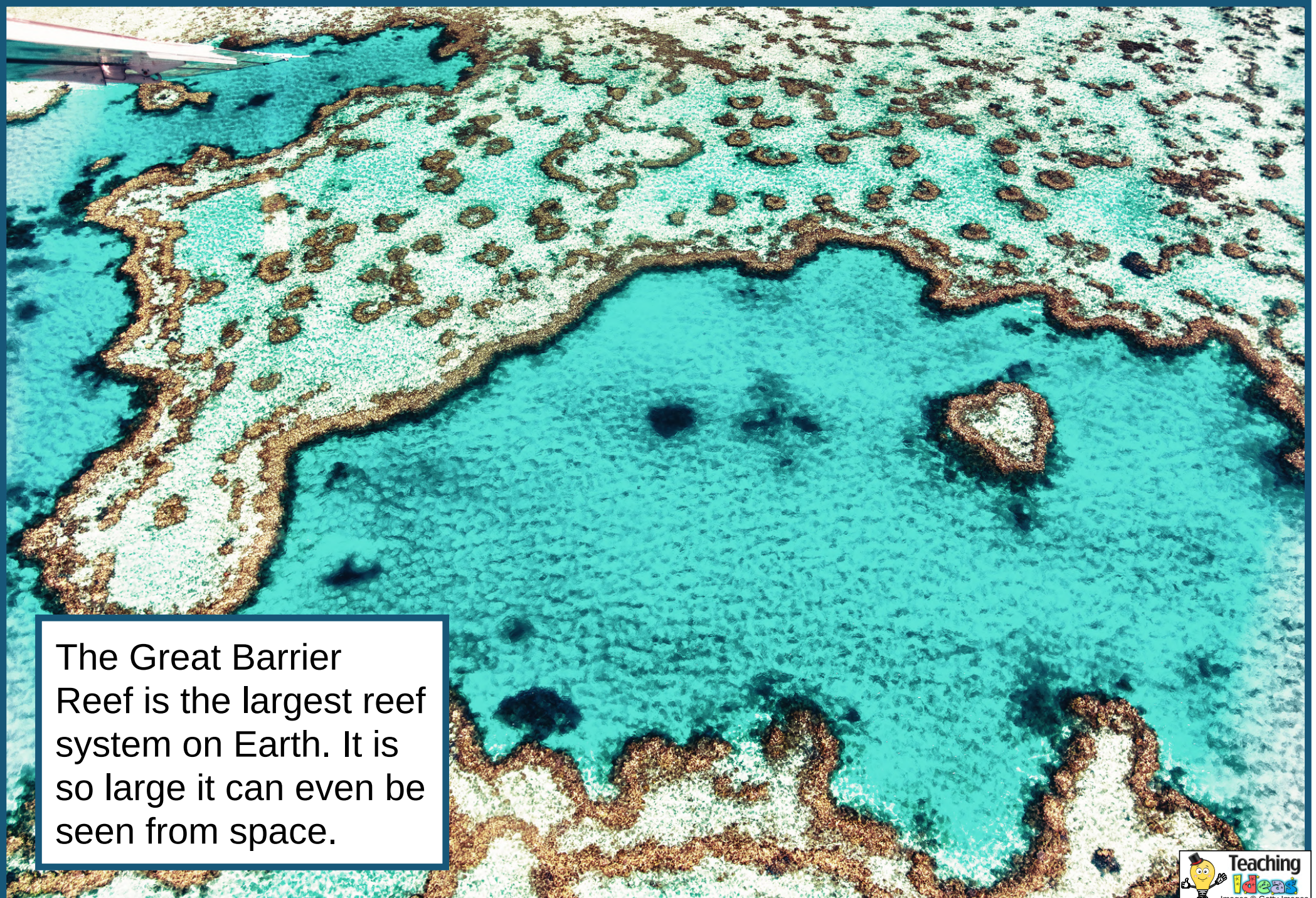




71% of the Earth's surface
is covered by the oceans.

A vibrant underwater scene of a coral reef. The water is a deep blue, with sunlight filtering down from the surface, creating a shimmering effect. The coral is diverse, with various shapes and colors including yellow, orange, and white. Numerous fish are swimming around, including many small orange fish, a few larger black and white fish, and a few blue and yellow fish. The overall scene is lively and colorful.

Most coral reefs today
are between 5,000
and 10,000 years old.



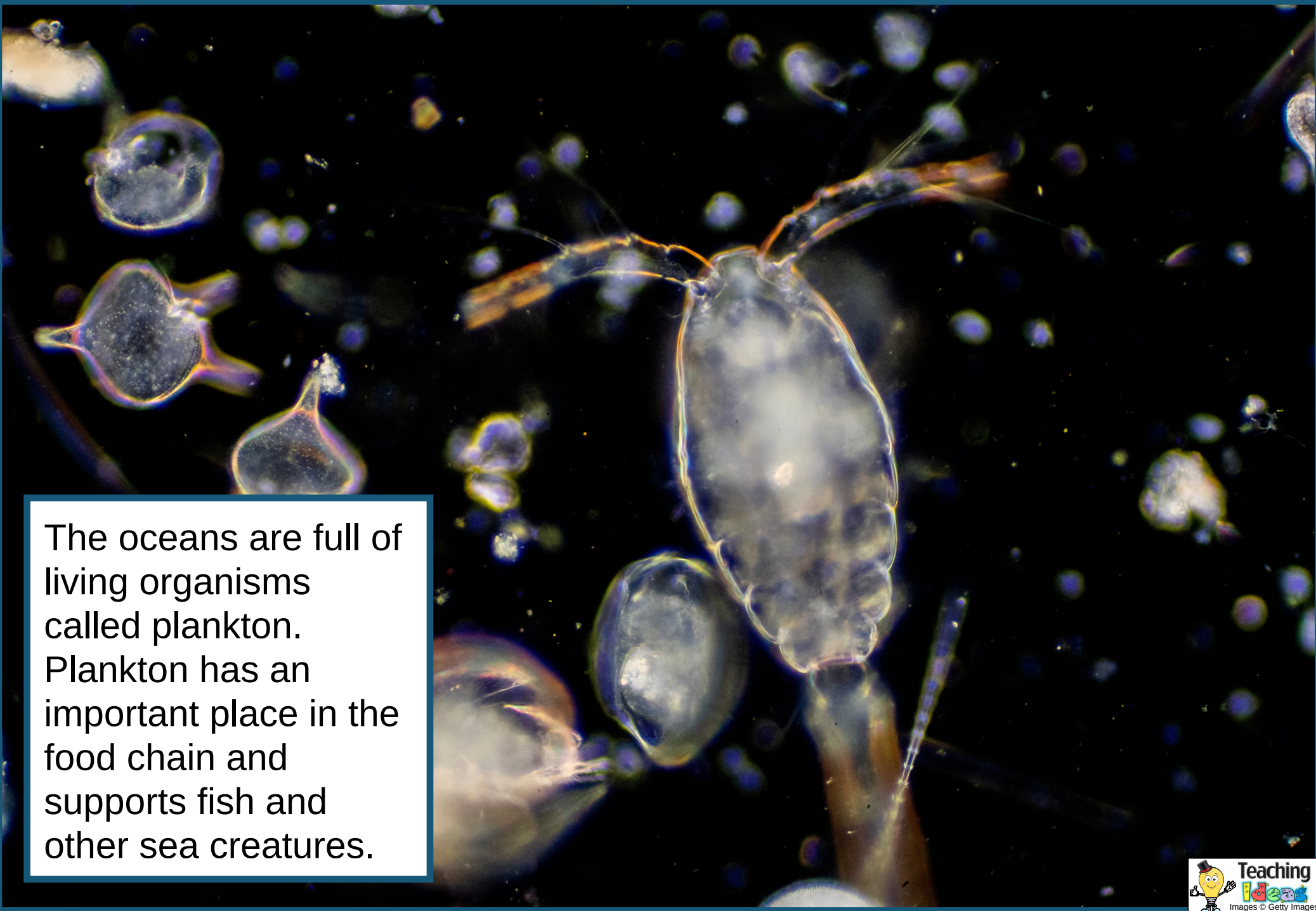
The Great Barrier Reef is the largest reef system on Earth. It is so large it can even be seen from space.

Coral reefs produce 50%
of the world's oxygen.



Coral reefs support more than 7,000 different species.



A microscopic view of various planktonic organisms against a dark background. The organisms are translucent and some have internal structures visible. One large, elongated organism with a central body and thin, branching appendages is prominent in the center. Other smaller, more rounded organisms are scattered around it.

The oceans are full of living organisms called plankton. Plankton has an important place in the food chain and supports fish and other sea creatures.



Jellyfish do not have brains, hearts or lungs. They are 95% water and have a hydrostatic skeleton made of circular muscles and bells containing fluid.



Seahorses are tiny fish named because of the shape of their heads. They move forward using their dorsal fins and grasp objects with their tails. There are 46 species of seahorse, most of which are found in tropical waters.

Hermit crabs do not have hard shells. Instead, they use old shells that used to belong to other creatures for protection. When hermit crabs outgrow their shells, they find a larger one.



Stingrays' skeletons are made up of flexible cartilage instead of bones. They search for their prey using electrical signals.

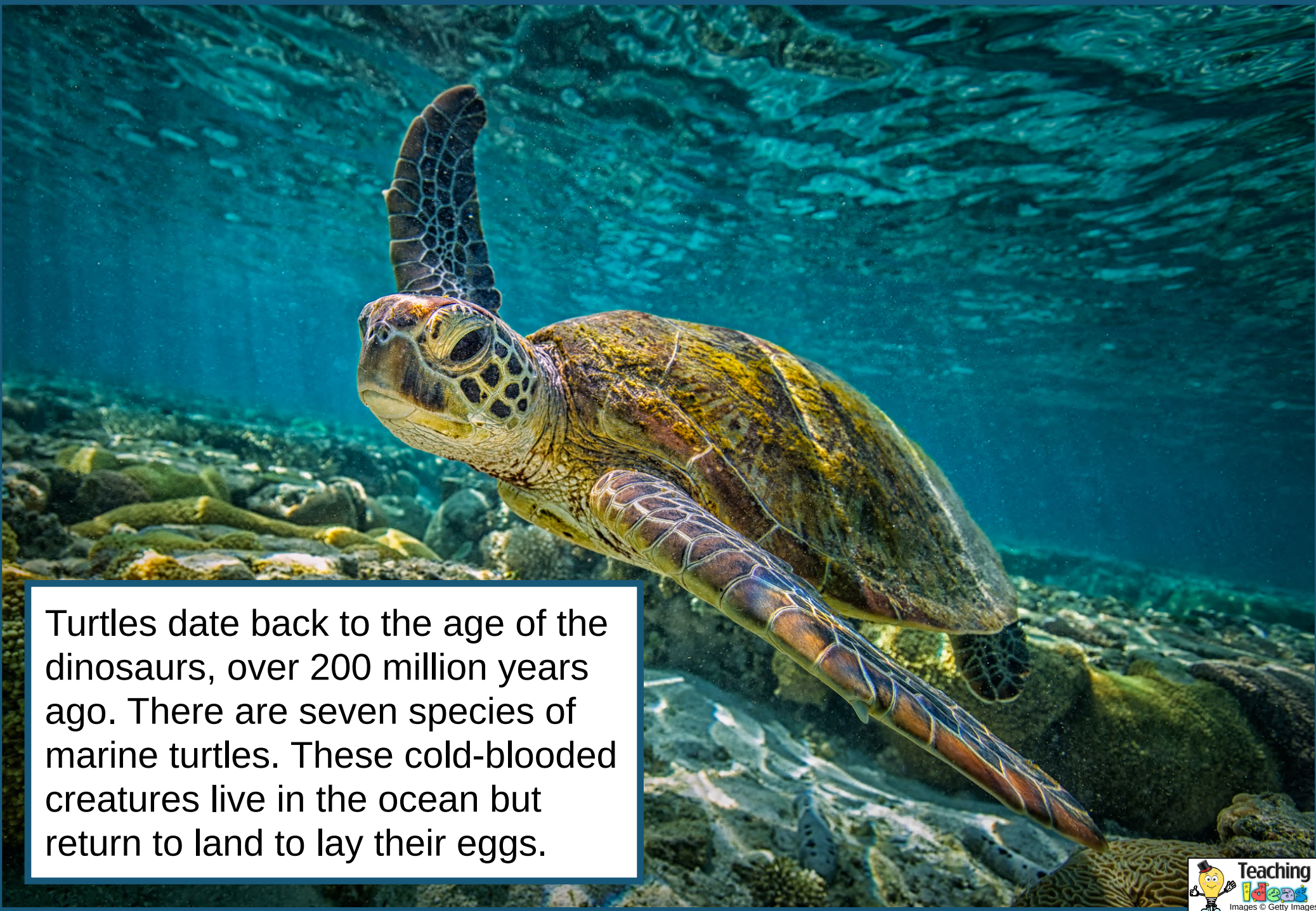




Pufferfish live in subtropical oceans or fresh waters. The stretchable skin on their stomachs allows them to puff up to scare away predators.



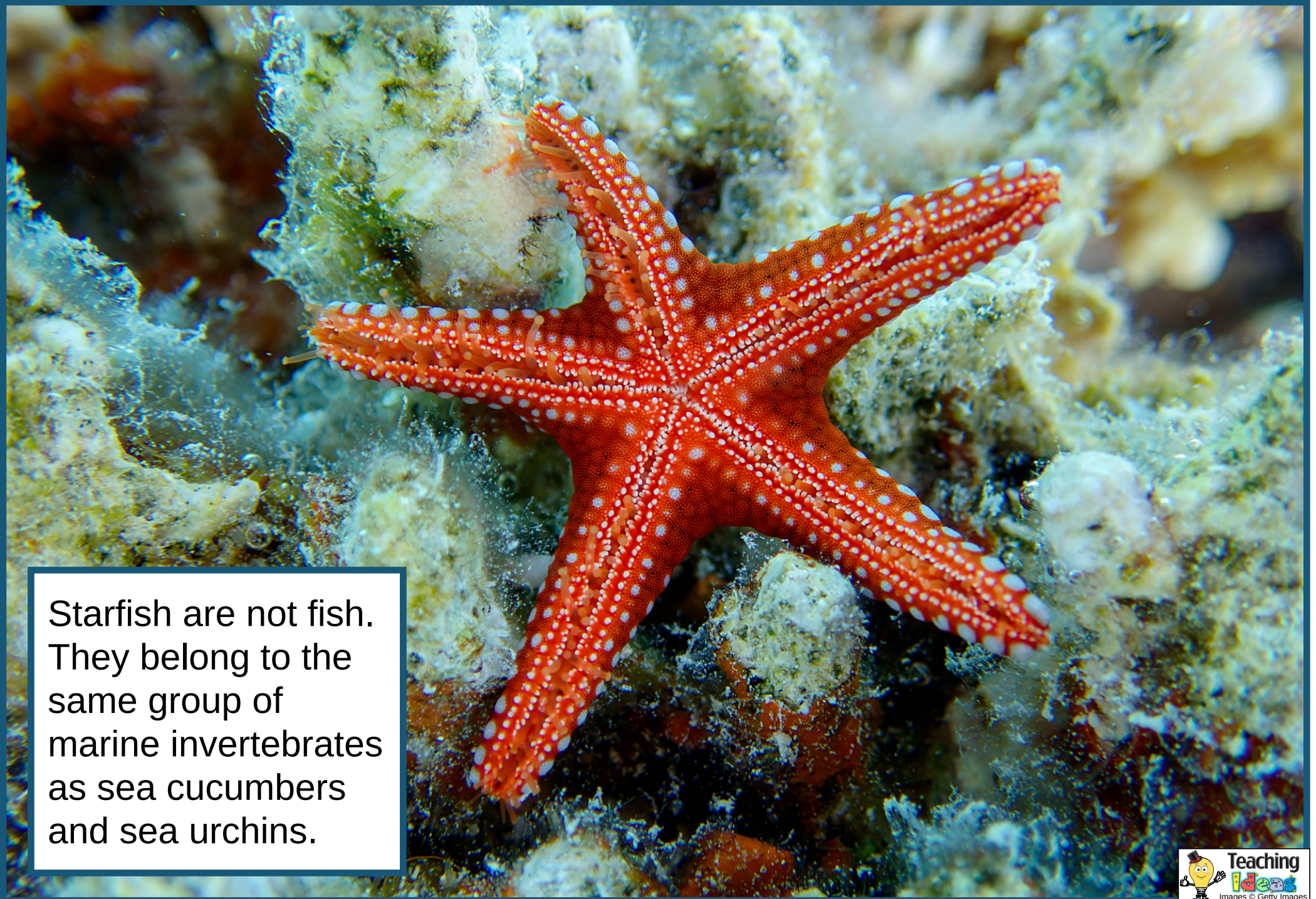
There are over 500 species of shark, many of which are endangered. Sharks vary in size. The dwarf lantern shark is no bigger than a human hand, whilst the whale shark grows up to 12 metres long.

A large sea turtle, possibly a Galapagos tortoise, is shown swimming underwater. The turtle is positioned diagonally across the frame, moving from the lower right towards the upper left. Its head is turned slightly towards the viewer. The shell is a mix of brown and green, with visible scutes. The flippers are extended, showing a pattern of brown and white. The background is a deep blue ocean with sunlight filtering through the water, creating a shimmering effect. The seabed is covered in rocks and coral, some of which are covered in green algae.

Turtles date back to the age of the dinosaurs, over 200 million years ago. There are seven species of marine turtles. These cold-blooded creatures live in the ocean but return to land to lay their eggs.

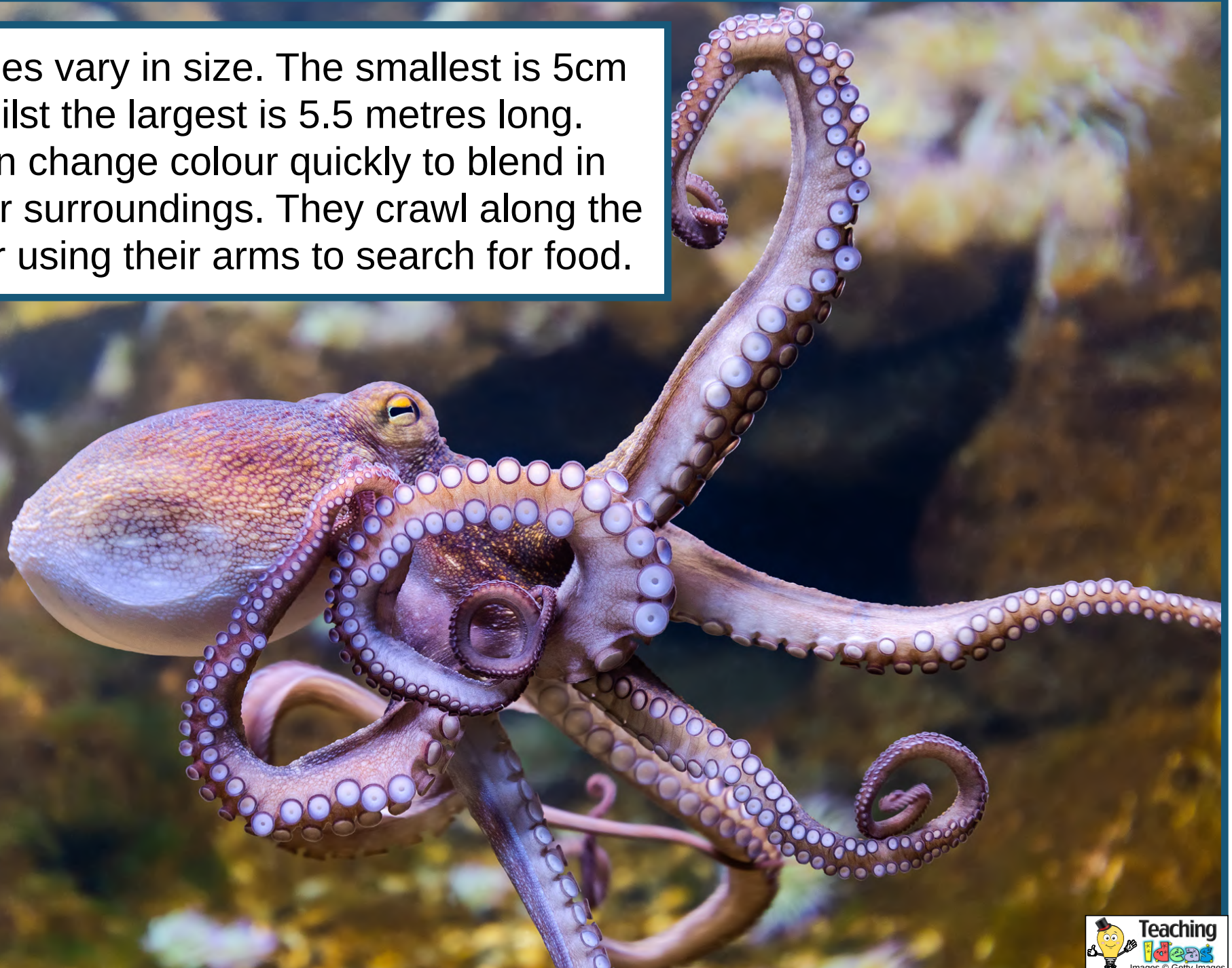
Clownfish live in the warm waters and sheltered reefs of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Each fish makes its home amongst the tentacles of a sea anemone, which protects it from predators.

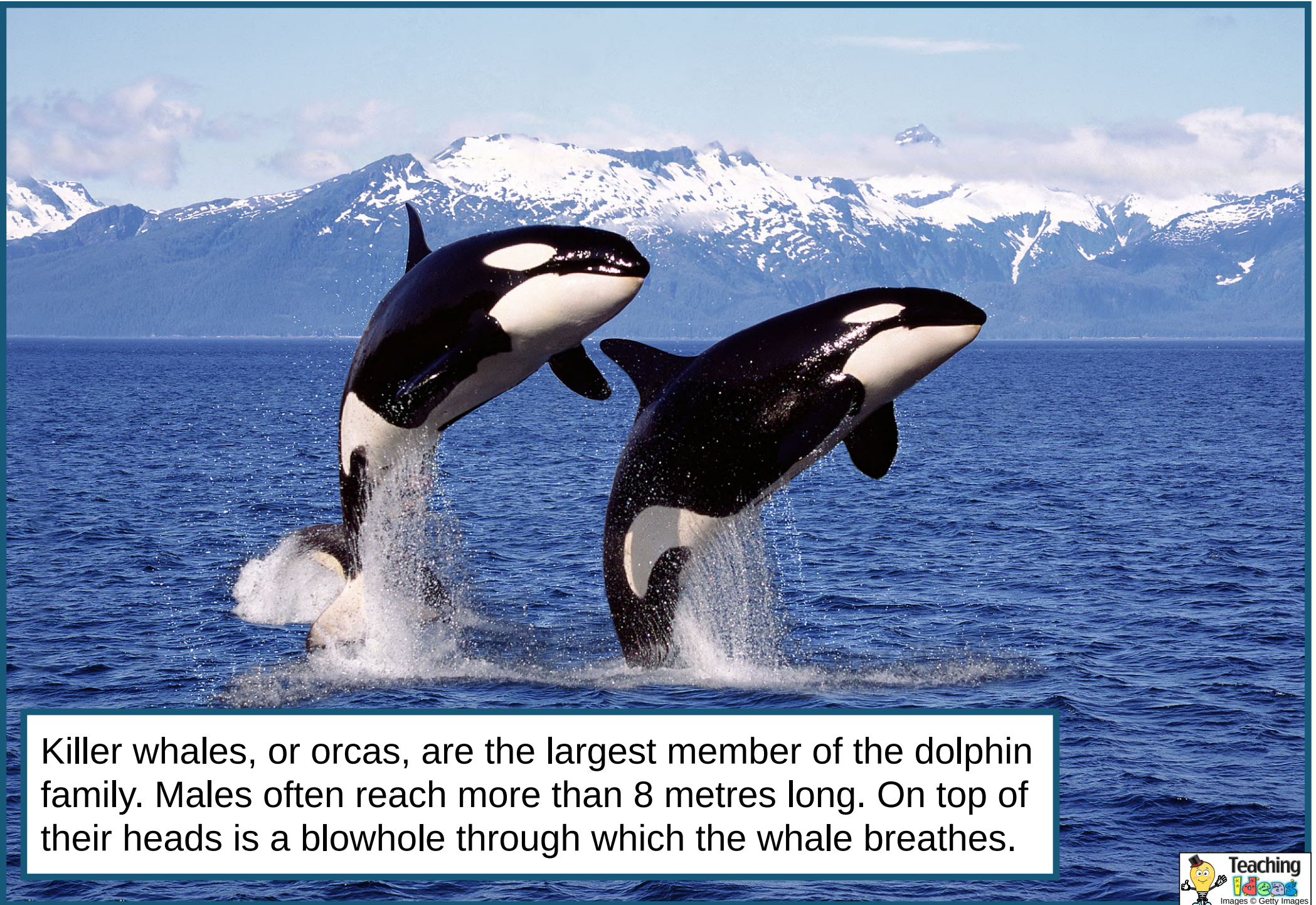




Starfish are not fish.
They belong to the
same group of
marine invertebrates
as sea cucumbers
and sea urchins.

Octopuses vary in size. The smallest is 5cm long, whilst the largest is 5.5 metres long. They can change colour quickly to blend in with their surroundings. They crawl along the sea floor using their arms to search for food.

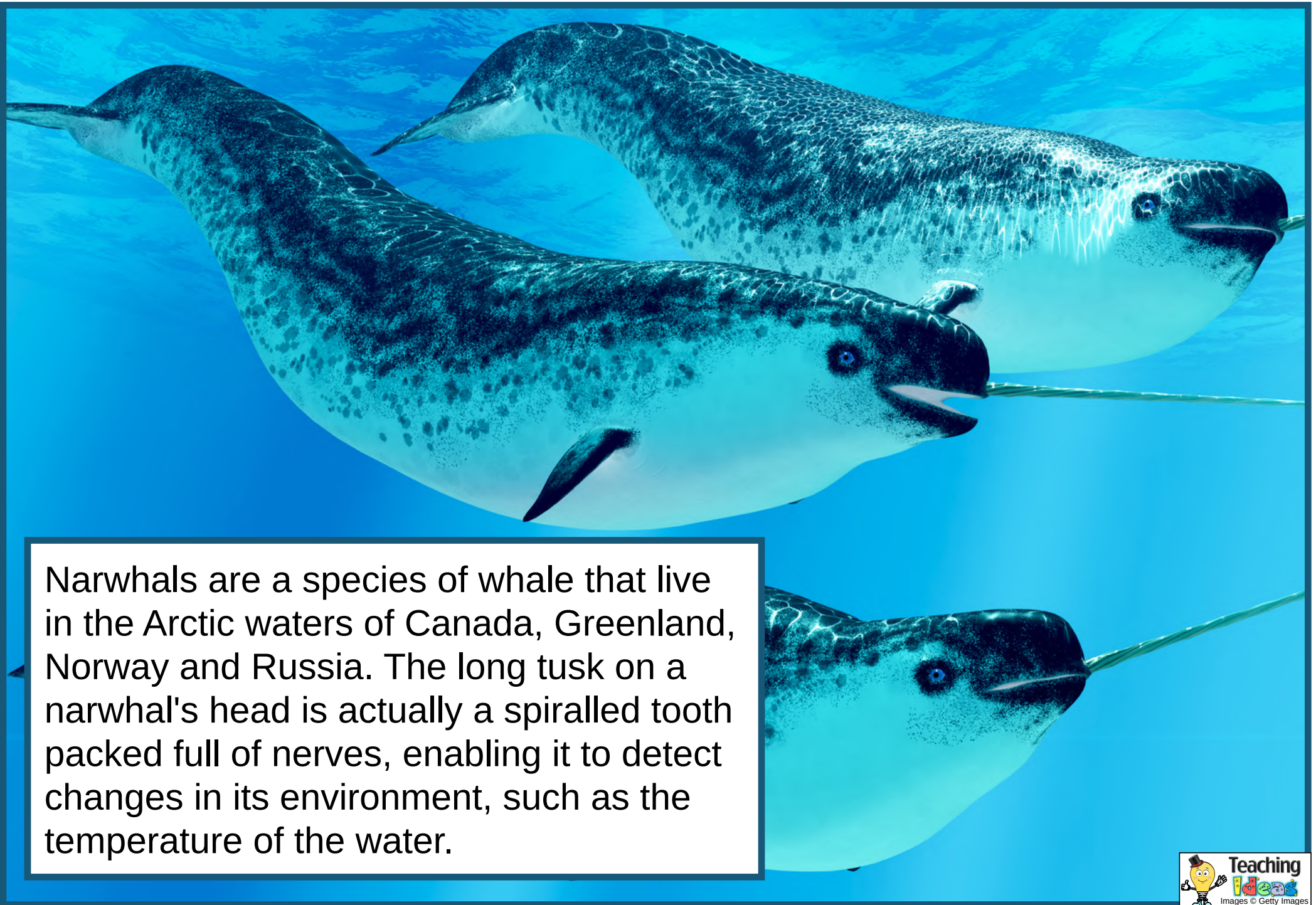




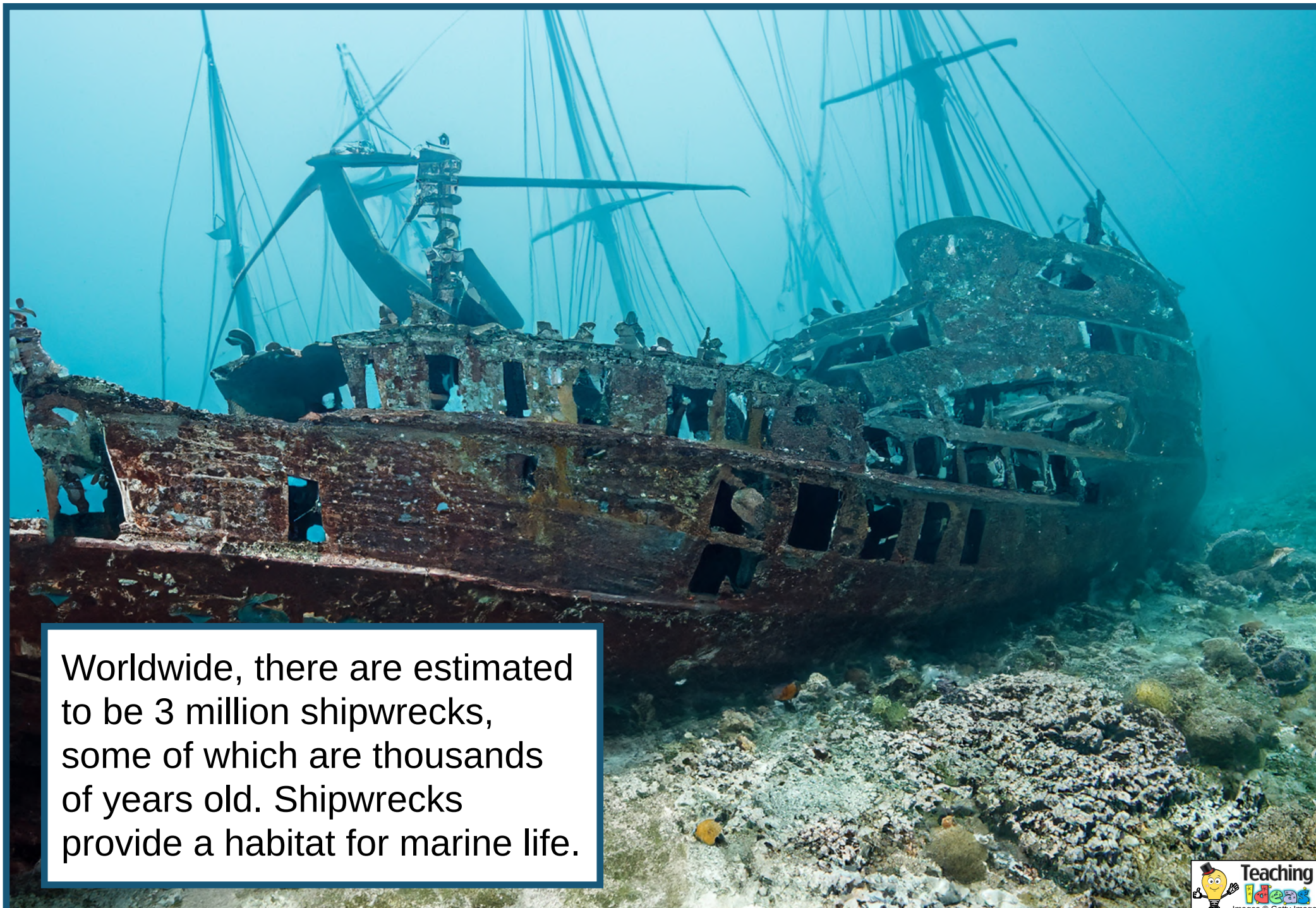
Killer whales, or orcas, are the largest member of the dolphin family. Males often reach more than 8 metres long. On top of their heads is a blowhole through which the whale breathes.

The blue whale is the largest mammal to have ever lived on Earth. An adult whale can grow over 30 metres long and weigh more than 130,000kg, which is longer than 3 buses and heavier than 3 lorries.





Narwhals are a species of whale that live in the Arctic waters of Canada, Greenland, Norway and Russia. The long tusk on a narwhal's head is actually a spiralled tooth packed full of nerves, enabling it to detect changes in its environment, such as the temperature of the water.



Worldwide, there are estimated to be 3 million shipwrecks, some of which are thousands of years old. Shipwrecks provide a habitat for marine life.