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Giants of the Deep

深海巨怪

〔美〕Avelyn Davidson 著

商务馆 网络互动·分级阅读

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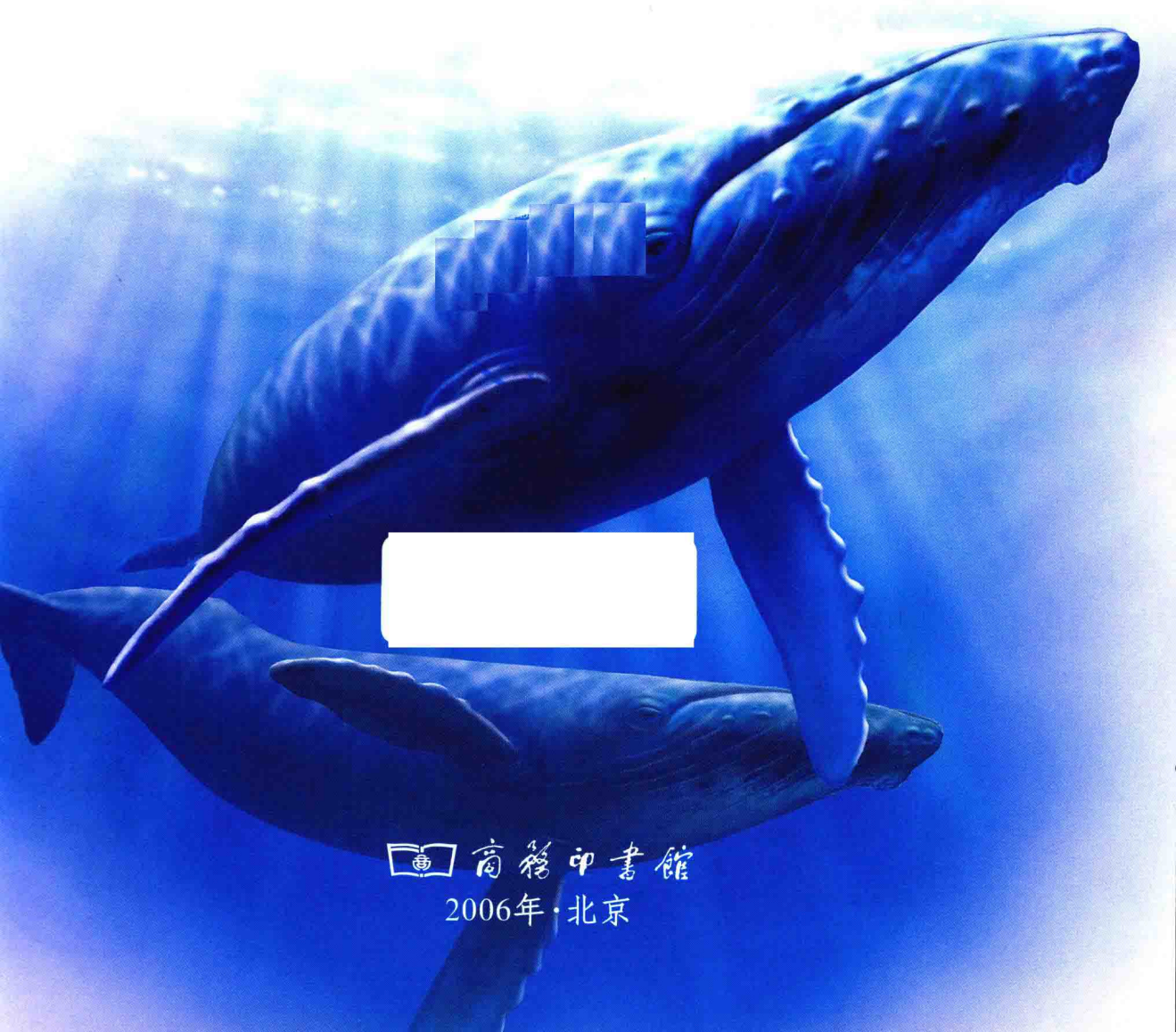

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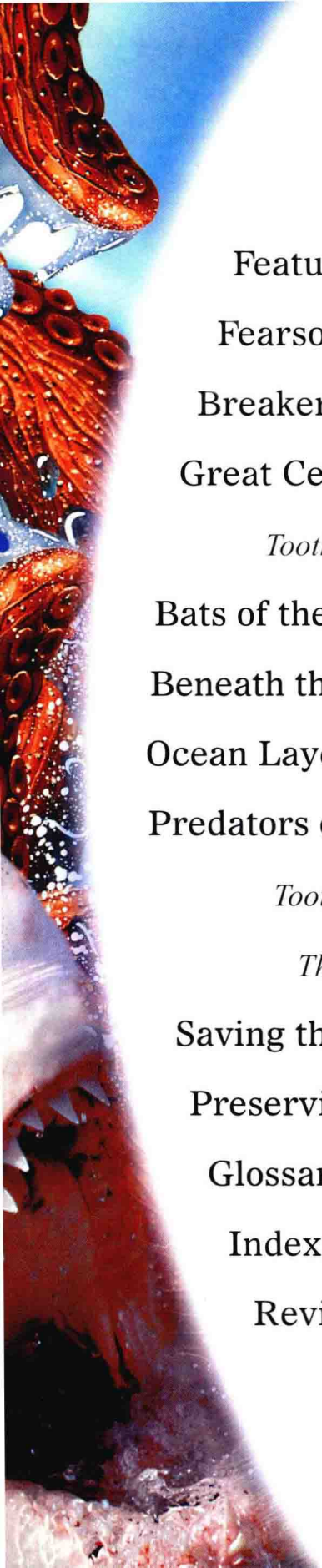

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Features 导读

Fully grown, live giant squid have never been studied, but they do exist. Read all about it in **Giant Catch**! on page 5.

人类从来没有研究过活着的成年巨型乌贼，但是这种动物确实存在。请你读一读第 5 页的“巨型乌贼！”，了解这种巨型海洋生物。

A team in the Antarctic is following a giant iceberg as it breaks from the ice shelf and floats into the open sea. Join them on page 7.

一座巨大的冰山从冰架上脱落下来，漂流到海上，一组科学家正在大西洋追踪研究这座冰山。翻到第 7 页，看看他们的工作吧。

Many ocean creatures are clever at hiding themselves. See how successful you are at blending into the background in **Hide and See** on page 23.

很多海洋生物都擅长伪装自己。请你按照第 23 页“捉迷藏”的指示试一试，看看自己能不能成功地和背景混为一体。

People have hunted whales for centuries, but today, many people believe it should be banned forever. Read some of the arguments on page 27 and make your own decision.

几个世纪以来，人们一直在捕猎鲸鱼，但是今天，很多人都认为这种行为应该被彻底禁止。请你读一读第 27 页上的辩论，然后作出自己的判断。

What is a commonly found fossil?

一种最常见的化石是什么？

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Fearsome Beasts

Long ago, sailors often came home from their ocean voyages with strange tales of **fearsome** sea monsters. They told stories of creatures with tentacles 60 feet long that reached up out of the sea to **devour** their ships. They spoke of gigantic beasts that **heaved** ships into the air and then used their long arms to crush the ships. What were these creatures?

Giant Catch!

Steve O'Shea, a marine biologist in New Zealand, knows more about giant squid than anyone else in the world. So, when a fishing boat hauled up a dead squid that measured 36 feet yesterday, Dr. O'Shea was called. Giant squid live in the deep sea, but they come closer to the surface to **breed**. Dr. O'Shea has examined nearly 100 dead giant squid, but no one has yet been able to study a live adult giant squid.

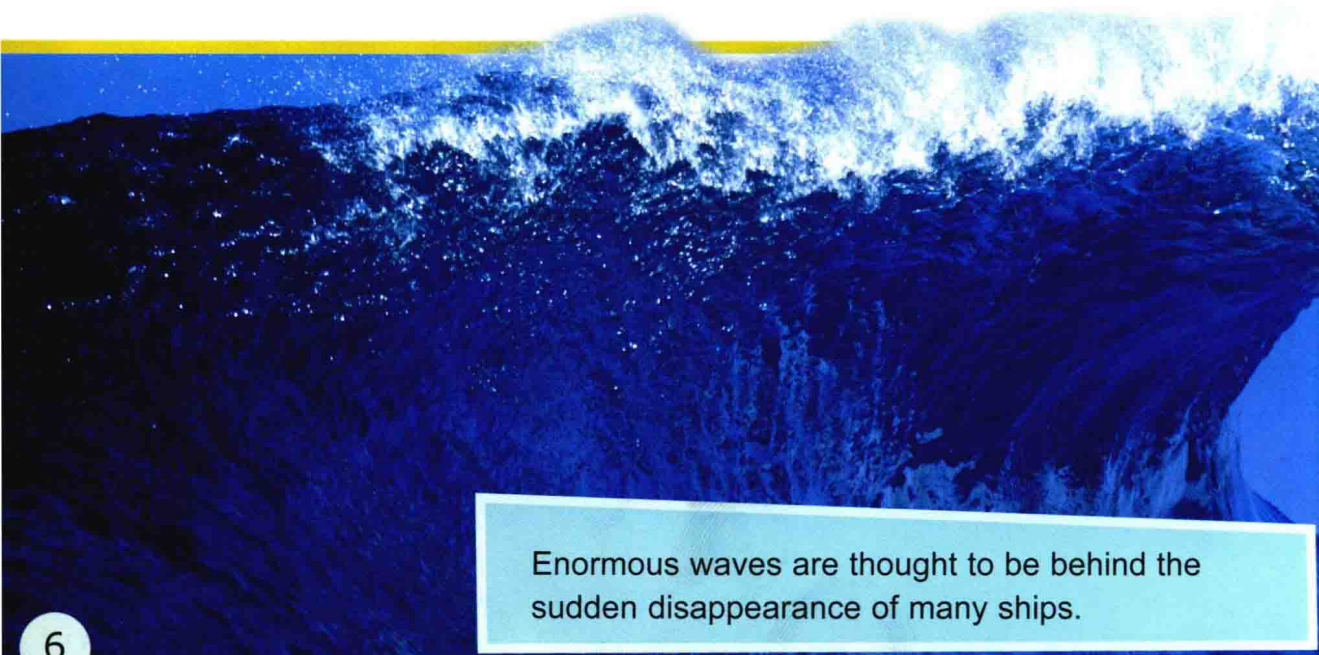
To this day, the oceans' depths hold many mysteries. However, we know now that giant squid and octopuses do live fathoms deep. We know that giant jellyfish and sea stars live far below the surface. We know that the blue whale is the largest living creature on our planet, and we have learned a lot about the other giants that inhabit the oceans.

Giant octopuses were once thought to be fearsome, but now we know they are shy and gentle.

Breakers and Bergs

Monster waves have terrified sailors for centuries and provided material for many books and movies. Scientists have now discovered that giant waves are created in a storm when slow-moving waves are caught up by a series of faster-moving waves traveling at twice the speed. The waves pile on top of each other to create one gigantic wave that can be up to 120 feet high! These huge waves are capable of breaking a large ship in half and sending it to the bottom of the ocean in minutes.

Icebergs could also be described as ocean giants. Icebergs are created when **chunks** of pack ice break free and float off into open sea. They are especially common in the Arctic and Antarctic Oceans. Sailors must take care when traveling through iceberg-filled waters, and ships that sail in polar seas usually have a specially made hull so that they are very strong.



Enormous waves are thought to be behind the sudden disappearance of many ships.

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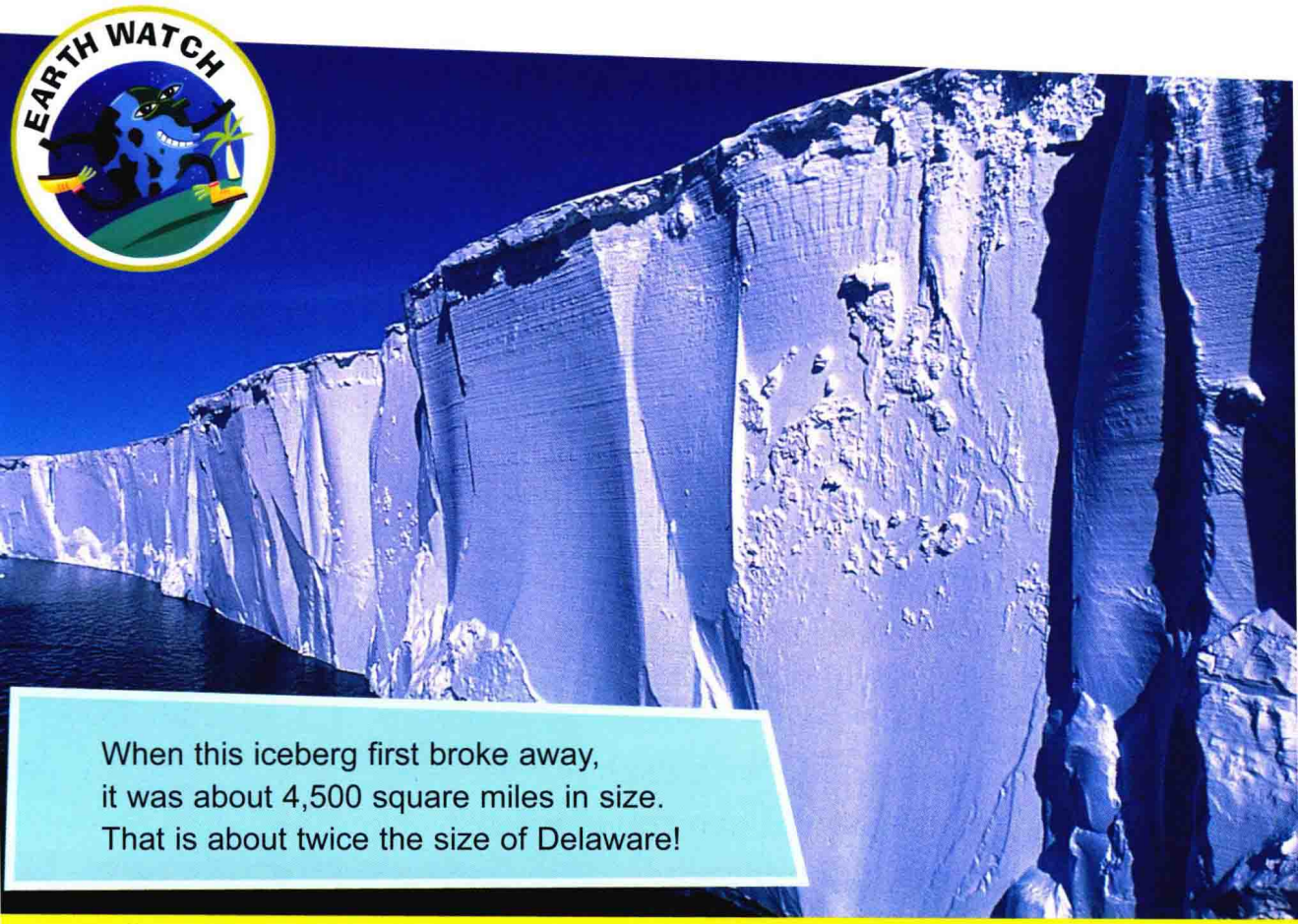


When this iceberg first broke away,
it was about 4,500 square miles in size.
That is about twice the size of Delaware!

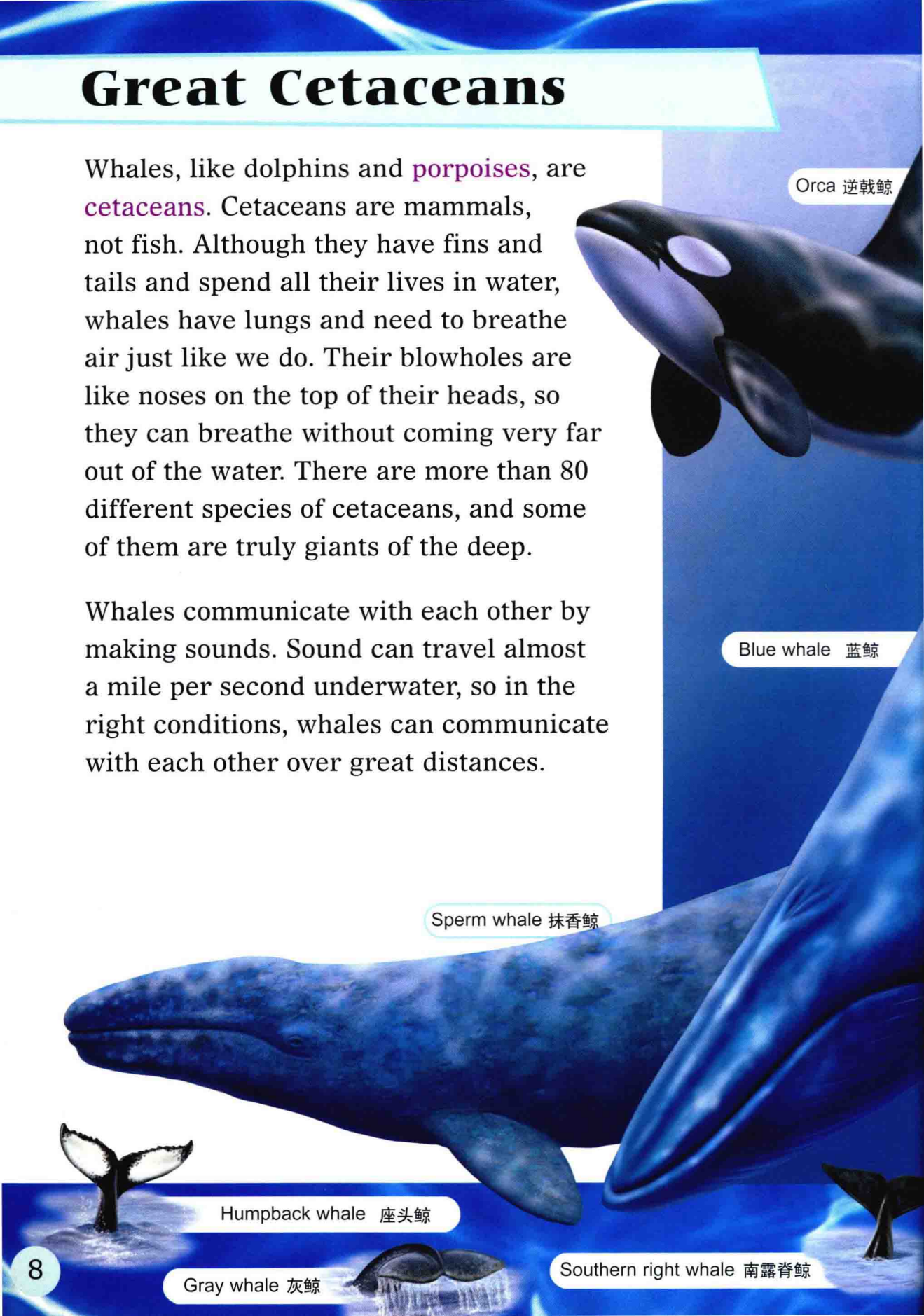
On March 17, 2000, a satellite recorded a giant iceberg breaking away from the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica. In January 2001, a team of divers and scientists, a boat crew, and a helicopter set off for the Antarctic to study that iceberg and see what would happen to it. They were amazed to discover that large colonies of seals and birds made their home on the iceberg. Algae also grew on the submerged parts of the iceberg, providing food for some fish and other small animals. The research team realized that icebergs are an important part of the polar ocean **ecosystem**.

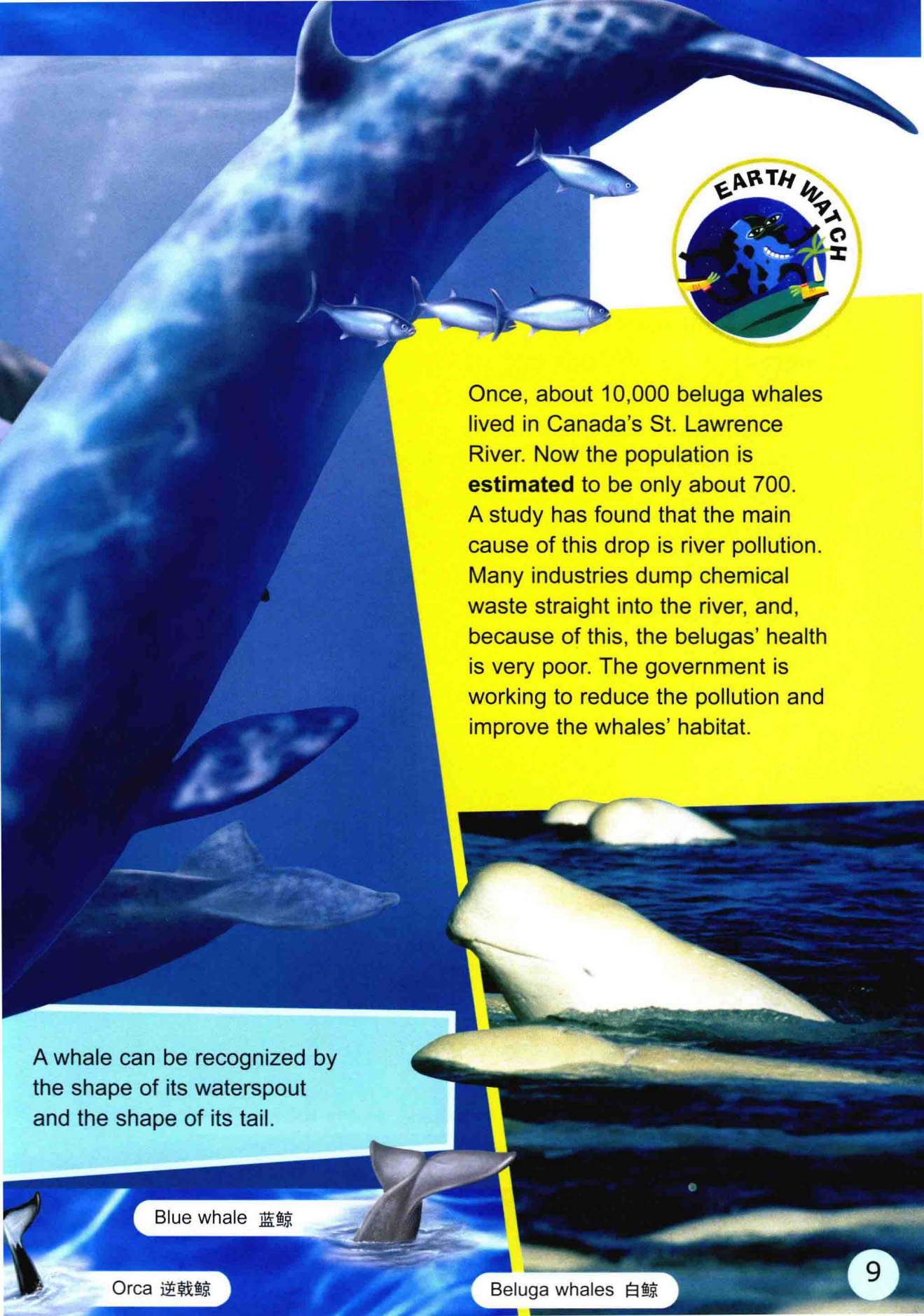
The research ship 考察船

Great Cetaceans

Whales, like dolphins and porpoises, are cetaceans. Cetaceans are mammals, not fish. Although they have fins and tails and spend all their lives in water, whales have lungs and need to breathe air just like we do. Their blowholes are like noses on the top of their heads, so they can breathe without coming very far out of the water. There are more than 80 different species of cetaceans, and some of them are truly giants of the deep.

Whales communicate with each other by making sounds. Sound can travel almost a mile per second underwater, so in the right conditions, whales can communicate with each other over great distances.





Once, about 10,000 beluga whales lived in Canada's St. Lawrence River. Now the population is **estimated** to be only about 700. A study has found that the main cause of this drop is river pollution. Many industries dump chemical waste straight into the river, and, because of this, the belugas' health is very poor. The government is working to reduce the pollution and improve the whales' habitat.

A whale can be recognized by the shape of its waterspout and the shape of its tail.

Blue whale 蓝鲸

Orca 逆戟鲸

Beluga whales 白鲸

Toothed Whales and Baleen Whales

All whales are meateaters. Most toothed whales use their teeth to catch their food. Then they just suck it down—not many species chew their food first! Orca have clever hunting patterns and work together as a group to catch their prey. Beluga whales use echolocation to find their food.

Baleen whales are the biggest creatures in the ocean, yet they eat some of the smallest—krill and tiny plankton. Different species of baleen whale have different ways of eating krill. The fin whale **skims** the water and **gulps** as it swims, while the gray whale stirs up mud on the ocean floor to capture small crustaceans and worms. Humpback whales work together to catch fish.

Humpback whales swim around a **school** of fish in a slow, spiraling circle, blowing a "net" of bubbles. As the fish become confused and trapped by the bubbles, they swim closer and closer together. Then the humpbacks simply open their mouths and suck them in!

A fin whale feeding
一头长须鲸的捕食过程

Beluga whales use low echolocation clicks spaced well apart to scan the ice-filled waters where they live. Once a whale picks up the presence of a fish, it starts moving in on its target. The clicks become faster and faster, ending in a long creak.

Humpback whales 座头鲸

Plankton 浮游生物

Krill 磷虾

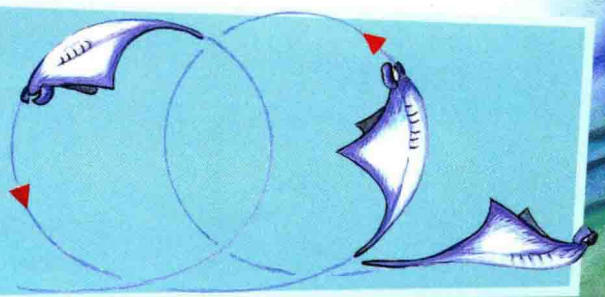
Bats of the Sea

Rays and skates have huge, flat fins that look a lot like bats' wings. Because of this, the family of rays and skates are called batoids. Rays and skates are close relatives of sharks. Like sharks, rays have flexible skeletons of cartilage instead of bone. Their bodies are specially suited to feeding on the seafloor, where most of them live.

The giant of the ray family is the manta ray. It can be as large as 22 feet from fin to fin. Most rays have a thin, spiked tail that often has a poisonous barb. Some rays can deliver a **nasty** shock with their tails.

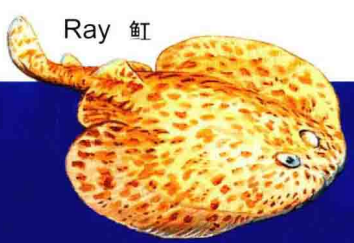
Bluespotted ribbon-tail ray
蓝点刺背鳐

The manta ray eats plankton. It feeds constantly by **looping** through clouds of plankton.



Guitarfish 犁头鳐

Members of the Batoid Family



Ray 虹

Skate 孔鳐

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