

Grizzly bear.

Ursus arctos horribilis.
Grizzlius maximus.

Hibernates for 5-7 months every year. (Do not wake.)

Young ones can climb trees! There goes that escape plan...



Will eat other bears: grizzly, black, brown and gummy.

Humpback (the hump is a massive muscle). Argh!

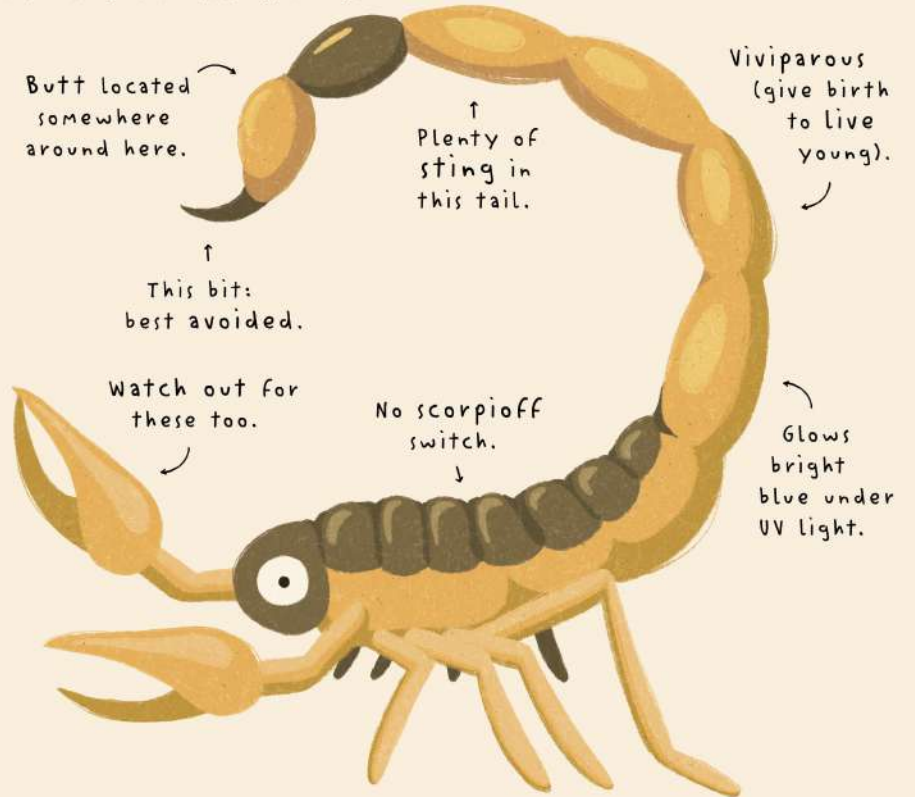
Can eat up to 40 kg per day!

Super salmon snatchers.

Perhaps the most appropriately named creatures on Earth, grizzlies are the top predator in their North American home. Averaging around 2 m long (with larger males weighing up to 360 kg), they can hunt huge herbivores such as bison and moose (but also have a soft spot for salmon and blueberries). Their claws are about as long as an adult human's fingers and they can run at up to 56 km per hour (much faster than even the quickest human). You have been warned!

Deathstalker scorpion.

Leiurus quinquestriatus.
Lethalus landlobsterus.



Butt located somewhere around here.

This bit: best avoided.

Watch out for these too.

No scorioff switch.

Plenty of sting in this tail.

Viviparous (give birth to live young).

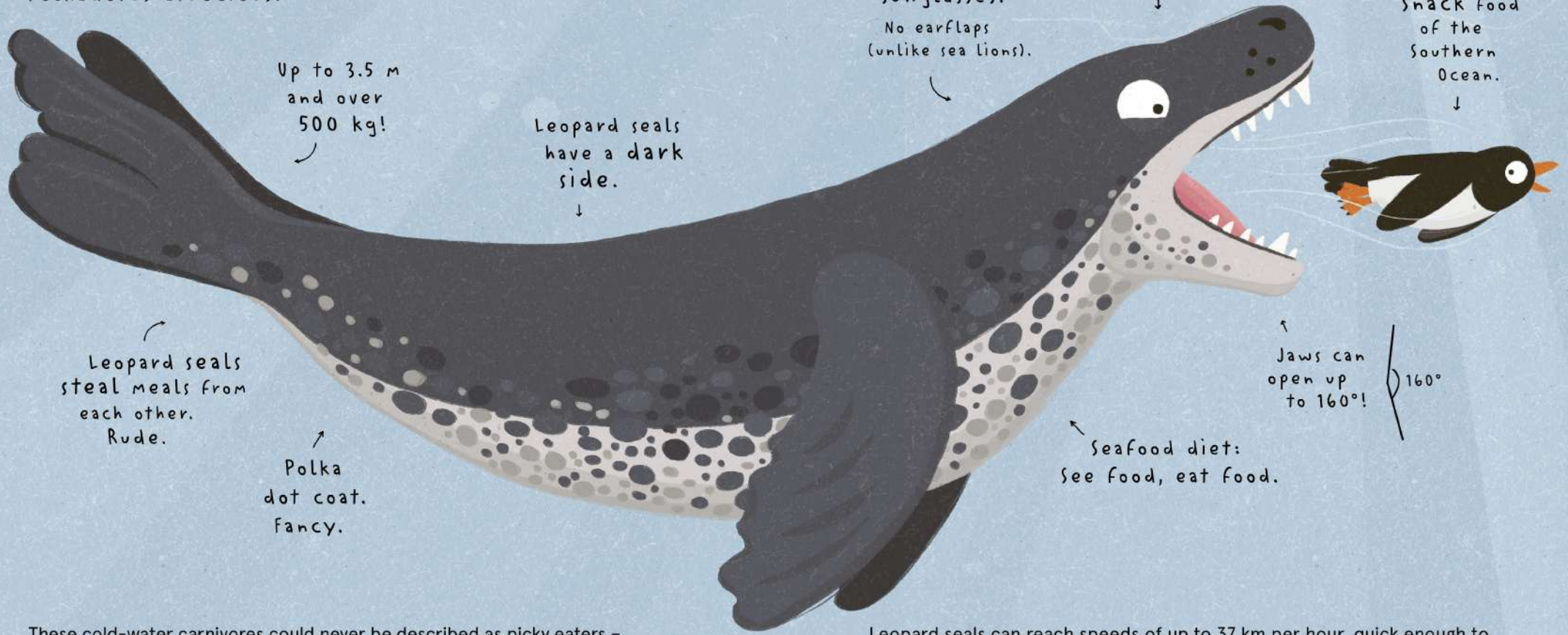
Glowing bright blue under UV light.

Scorpions are a part of the arachnid family – along with spiders – so are not insects. Fossils suggest that ancient scorpions were one of the first sea creatures to crawl onto dry land, around 420 million years ago. Today, there are around 1,500 species in this fearsome family, with the deathstalker considered one of the most aggressive and deadly. It lives in North Africa and the Middle East, and its potent venom is a cocktail of neurotoxins, which can cause extreme pain and anaphylaxis (a life-threatening allergic reaction) to anyone unlucky enough to get stung.

Leopard seal.

Hydrurga leptonyx.

Polkadotus atrocious.



Up to 3.5 m
and over
500 kg!

Leopard seals
have a dark
side.

Can't wear
sunglasses.
No earflaps
(unlike sea lions).

Plays with
its food.

Poor ol'
penguins.
Snack food
of the
Southern
Ocean.

Leopard seals
steal meals from
each other.
Rude.

Polka
dot coat.
Fancy.

Seafood diet:
See food, eat food.

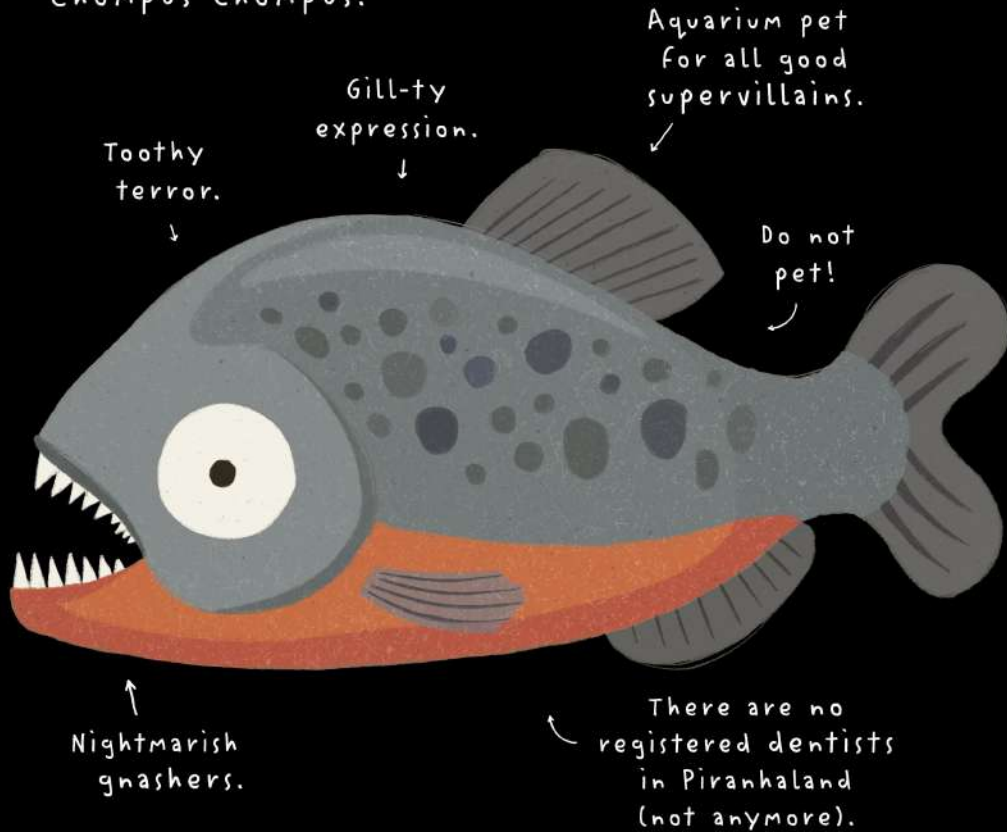
Jaws can
open up
to 160°!

These cold-water carnivores could never be described as picky eaters – fish, squid, seabirds, other seals, sharks and crustaceans are all on the menu for leopard seals. But thanks to a set of sieve-like cheek teeth, their Southern Ocean diet consists mainly of krill (tiny shrimp-like crustaceans), which leopard seals Hoover up in vast quantities. Because of their size (reaching up to 3.5 m in length), leopard seals are at the top of the food chain in the Antarctic – their only known predator being orcas.

Leopard seals can reach speeds of up to 37 km per hour, quick enough to leap out of the water and onto an ice floe. They can stay submerged for around 15 minutes while hunting, and are even known to sing to one another while underwater. But don't be fooled by those siren songs – leopard seals have a dark side, too. Once they've eaten enough food for the day, these massive mammals will often chase smaller creatures for fun, giving them a reputation as bullies.

Red-bellied piranha.

~~Pygocentrus nattereri.~~
Chompus chompus.



Despite their fearsome reputation, these South American freshwater fish typically scavenge for food rather than hunt it. As a relatively social species, they swim in shoals for safety but are also known to grunt, gnash and 'bark' while communicating with one another! And while it goes without saying that these toothy tiddlers can pack quite a bite, piranha attacks on unlucky humans are very rare.

Common hippopotamus.

~~Hippopotamus amphibius.~~
Hangreus chargeus.



Our planet's second-largest land animal weighs as much as three cars and can (and will) gallop towards you at up to 30 km per hour! A hippo's most terrifying feature is its enormous jaws. Hippos can open their mouths to almost 180°, exposing their colossal canines before chomping down with one of the strongest bite forces in the animal kingdom. Scariest still, hippos are known to be omnivorous, meaning they are not averse to the odd meaty meal.