

The Pop Ups. Stay seated. Three, two, one, ignition. Get ready for an adventure of magnificent proportion.

The Pop Ups. (Singing.) I don't know what you've been told, but we're in a golden age - so many discoveries that are jumping off the page. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world. Wow in the world.

The Pop Ups. With Guy and Mindy. We're on our way, Houston.

(Soundbite of jello wobble.)

Mindy. Hey Reg! How's that strawberry shark week jello coming along?

Reggie. Coo!

Mindy. Does it look like blood and guts yet?

Reggie. Coo coo.

(Soundbite of doorbell.)

Mindy. Oh! Guy Raz is here. Coming! (To Reggie) Here Reg, you take over!

Reggie. Coo!

(Soundbite of squirty ketchup sounds.)

Mindy. Walk walk walk walk walk walk ...

(Soundbite of door opening.)

Mindy. Happy Shark Week, Guy Razy!

Guy. Happy Shark Week, Mindy!

Mindy. Oh! Did you remember that bag of smashed up goldfish crackers I asked you to bring?

Guy. Oh yeah, I've got 'em right here. Here you go.

(Soundbite of goldfish box shake.)

Mindy. Thank you!

Guy. What did you need them for anyway?

Mindy. Oh, I'm making some homemade chum.

Guy. Chum?

Mindy. Yeah, you know that bait made out of fish guts and bones.

Guy. Ugh.

Mindy. Researchers use it all the time to attract sharks out in the ocean. You know, chum!

Guy. Uh-huh...

Mindy. So, I'm making my own for a little snack for us to eat while we watch all of the shark week shows on TV!

Guy. Oh...heh heh...?

Hey Reg! Come one! Shark week's starting.

Reggie. Coo coo coo!

(Soundbite wings flapping.)

Mindy. Alrighty, TV on!

(Soundbite of tv sputter.)

Mindy. TV on!

(Soundbite of TV sputters to life.)

Mindy. Phew, alright! Here we go!

(Soundbite nature sounds from TV.)

Narrator. Here, in the cool coastal waters of south Australia, a monster lies beneath the surface.

(Soundbite of tense music building.)

Mindy. Ooooh good, it's just started. Is the chum ready, Reg?

Reggie. Cool!

Mindy. Oh, thanks!

(Soundbite of chum sloshing and chomping.)

Mindy. Mmm! That's good! I think I got some bones.

Narrator. Growing to twenty feet long and weighing over two and a half tons, these behemoths are the largest predator fish on the planet.

Narrator. Of course we're talking about the great white shark!

Mindy / Guy / Reggie. Woah! / Cool!

Narrator. Their streamlined, torpedo-shaped bodies and powerful tails, propel them through the water at an astonishing fifteen miles per hour.

(Soundbite of underwater sounds.)

Guy. Woah, fifteen miles an hour ... that's almost three times faster than that olympic swimmer, Michael Phelps!

Narrator. These predators prowl the ocean waters with their weapon of choice, three hundred razor sharp teeth arranged in five rows.

(Soundbite of underwater sounds.)

Narrator. There are few creatures, in all the seven seas, that can match the great white for speed, size, and ferocity

(Soundbite of tense music ending.)

Announcer. Don't go anywhere! More 'Great Bite Shark' after these messages!

Advertisement. Got a hunger the size of a whale shark?!

(Soundbite of womp womp.)

Advertisement. But a budget the size of a dwarf lantern shark?

(Soundbite of wimp wimp.)

Advertisement. Then check out these jaws-dropping deals down at the spit-take!

Mindy. Hey Reg, you okay?

Reggie. Coo.

Mindy. I think Reggie's a little scared of sharks.

Reggie. Coo.

Guy. Well I can see why! Three hundred teeth! Fifteen miles per hour! Twenty feet long! That would scare anyone!

Reggie. Coo.

Mindy. Yeah, well they used to be a lot scarier.

Guy. Huh? What do you mean?

Reggie. Coo?

Mindy. Ok, so the great white shark might seem like a scary sea creature today, but compared to prehistoric sharks, it's basically just a fish puppy.

Guy. You mean there's a type of shark that's even more scary than a great white?

Mindy. Oh yea! Way more! I read all about it in this big book of sharks I gave Grandma G-force to give me for my birthday last year.

Mindy. Okay, let's see what it says here. Okay, ahem.

(Soundbite of page turning.)

Mindy. Twenty-three million years ago, beneath the waves of the Pacific Ocean, a monster lurks.

Guy. Uhh uhh.

Reggie. Coo.

Mindy. A monster measuring over sixty feet long and weighing as much as ten African elephants.

Guy. Whoa!

Mindy. A monster named, the Megalodon!

Guy. The Megalodon?

Mindy. Yeah! The Megalodon!

(Soundbite of crash.)

Guy. And the Megalodon is like the great white's big great great great great great great great great great great grandfather?

Reggie. Coo?

Mindy. Yeah, sort of. Only it's not a direct descendant. More like a close relative.

Guy. Huh.

Mindy. And it's only recently that we've come to learn just how big these ancient sharks really were.

Guy. Really?

Mindy. Really! And it's all thanks to a group of paleontologists from the University of Bristol and Swansea University in England.

Guy. Huh. And when you say paleontologists, you mean scientists that study the history of life on earth using fossils.

Mindy. Exactoritos. And not just dinosaur fossils! Paleontologists study the fossils of all kinds of life that came before us!

Guy. And what did they find?

Mindy. Well, I could tell you...

Guy. Yes?

Mindy. But I'd rather show you!

Guy. But Mindy, what are we going to do about 'Great Bite Shark'?

Mindy. What?

Guy. You know, the show we were just watching! The commercials are almost over.

Mindy. Guy Raz, I have a mostly functional time traveling wow machine just waiting for us outside. If we hop in now, we can still be back before the commercials are over!

Guy. (Sigh.) Okay Mindy, let's go find some giant prehistoric sharks!

Mindy. Yes! Guy Raz, Reggie, to the wow machine! Walk walk walk walk walk walk. Hee yah!

(Soundbite of hatch opening.)

Mindy. Ah! Okay. After you Guy Raz! Please don't mind the smell.

Reggie. Coo!

Guy. The smell? Ugh what is that?

Mindy. I think it's old shrimp, maybe?

Reggie. Coo.

Guy. Ugh.

Mindy. Anyhoo, don't forget to take off your shoes.

Guy. Okay...

(Soundbite of thuds.)

Mindy. You too, Reg!

Reggie. Coo!

(Soundbite of thuds.)

Mindy. Thank you. Closing the hatch.

(Soundbite of hatch closing.)

Guy. Okay Mindy, where are we off to?

Mindy. Well according to that book I had inside, the Megalodon lived from about twenty-three million years ago, all the way up to about three point six million years ago.

Guy. Okay, well, then, why don't we hedge our bets and aim right for the middle of that time period. Say, fifteen million years ago?

Mindy. Good thinkin'! Alright...let me just plug it in here!

(Soundbite of bleeps and bloops.)

Guy. And uh, and Mindy...what about a location?

Mindy. Well, like most sharks it probably preferred warm, tropical waters. And because of its size, we can also probably rule out any shallow waters.

Guy. So maybe somewhere like the South Pacific Ocean?

Mindy. Yes, I think that is an excellent guess Guy Raz! Let's lock that in.

Reggie. Coo coo.

(Soundbite of bleeps and bleeps.)

Mindy. Alright, South Pacific...Fifteen million years ago...and here we go!

Mindy / Guy. Whoa!

(Soundbite of crash and splash.)

Reggie. Coo.

Guy. Wow Mindy, you really know how to make a splash!

Mindy. It's my signature style.

Reggie. Coo!

Guy. Okay, so what did those researchers from Bristol find out about this giant shark?

Mindy. Well up until now scientists have really only been able to guess as to how big the Megalodon shark was based on things like fossils from leftover teeth. But it turns out that teeth aren't a super accurate way of estimating size.

Guy. Uh huh.

Mindy. So this team of scientists from Bristol took four close relatives of the Megalodon, the mako shark, the salmon shark, the porbeagle shark, and the great white shark. And then they used a mathematical formula to average out the proportions of each shark.

Reggie. Coo.

Guy. You mean they got an average measurement of how long each shark's fin or the tail was compared to their body, and then applied that equation to come up with a more accurate estimate as to how big the Megalodon was?

Mindy. Exactoritos!

Guy. And so how big do they think this Megalodon was Mindy ?

Mindy. Well, if their predictions are correct, a fifty-two foot or sixteen meter-long Megalodon's head would be about fifteen feet or four point six meters tall.

Reggie. Coo.

Guy. Woah! Its head would almost be as tall as a giraffe!

Mindy. And it's dorsal fin...

Guy. Which is the big scary fin on top that sticks out of the water...

Mindy. Yeah, you know what I'm talking about! That fin would be about five point three feet or one point six meters tall!

Guy. Whoa! That's almost as tall as you Mindy!

Mindy. I know! A fin as tall as me. And its tail...Guy Raz...its tail would be a whopping twelve feet or three point eight meters tall!

Guy. Woah, that's like two of me, end to end!

Mindy. It's bonkerballs!

Guy. Wow! So how accurate do you think these predictions are Mindy ?

Mindy. Well they're about as close a guess as we can make without seeing one up close! Speaking of which, you ready to go search for Megalodons?

Guy. Do I have a choice?

Mindy. Nope! Saddle up Guy Raz, we're about to go deep!

(Soundbite of machine starting up.)

Mindy. Okay, everyone. Hold on to your biscuits!

Guy. What?

Reggie. Coo?

(Soundbite of alarm.)

Computer. Approaching optimal depth

(Soundbite of thrust and machine holts.)

Guy. Oof! Mindy!

Mindy. I told you to hold on!

Guy. (Groans.)

Reggie. Coo.

(Soundbite of ocean currents.)

Guy. (Whispering.) What now Mindy?

Mindy. Now we watch and wait.

Reggie. Coo.

Guy. Gah, Mindy. I can't see a thing. It's too dark down here.

Mindy. Ugh. Okay, hold tight, I'll fire up the flood lights. They're on the fifth floor, so just wait right here and I'll be right back! Run run run run run run.

Guy. Don't be too long!

(Soundbite of creaking and thumping.)

Guy. Did you hear that, Reggie?

Reggie. Cooooo.

(Soundbite of creaking and thumping.)

Guy. Mindy?! Is that you?

Reggie. Coooooo.

Mindy. Okay, got the lights!

Guy. Gah! Mindy!

Mindy. Ooh sorry, Guy Raz, didn't mean to scare you!

Guy. (Groans.)

(Soundbite of creaking and thumping.)

Guy. Did you hear that?

Mindy. Uh, did I hear what?

Guy. There's something outside Mindy, something big!

Mindy. What? Okay, let's take a look.

(Soundbite of thumping.)

Guy / Mindy / Reggie. Woah! Oof! Cool!

Mindy. What was that, Guy Raz? Was that a Megalodon?

Guy. That's not a Megalodon Mindy...that's...

(Soundbite of whale song.)

Mindy / Guy. A whale!

Reggie. Cool!

Guy. A baleen whale by the look of it.

(Soundbite of whale song.)

Mindy. What in the wow!

Guy. It must be more than fifty feet long.

Mindy. Yeah, it's almost as big as two school buses back to back.

(Soundbite of jaws string vamp.)

Guy. Uh, Mindy?

Mindy. Yeah?

Guy. What's that?

(Soundbite of fast jaws string vamp.)

Mindy. What's what?

Guy. That ominous music coming out of the computer speaker?

Mindy. Oh that? That's my shark detector. It makes noise whenever there's a shark nearby.

Guy. (Gasp.) You mean...

(Soundbite of faster jaws string vamp.)

Guy / Mindy. Megalodon!

Mindy. It's getting closer, Guy Raz! One hundred feet...

(Soundbite of faster jaws string vamp.)

Mindy. Fifty feet...

(Soundbite of faster jaws string vamp.)

Mindy. Twenty feet...

(Soundbite of faster jaws string vamp.)

Mindy. It's coming straight for us!

Reggie. Coooo!

Guy. Quick! Hold onto something!

Mindy. Brace for impact!

Guy / Mindy. Agghhh!

Mindy. Phew! Was that it? Man, that was a close one! It just missed us!

Reggie. Cool!

Mindy. Did you see that?

Guy. Mindy, I don't think it was us that it was going after..

Mindy. Well, baleen whale is one of their favorite foods according to all the Megalodon teeth that have been found embedded into their ancient whale bones.

Guy. Well, it's no surprise they left a few teeth behind! I mean, look at how this shark is biting into that whale. That's some powerful jaw!

Well, looks like ol' Megalodon's going to be chewing down on this whale blubber for a while. We should probably let him eat in peace and get back to our time in the present. Ready to kick it?

(Soundbite of jaws string vamp.)

Guy. Uh, Mindy...

Mindy. Let me just plug in the coordinates here...

(Soundbite of computer bleeps and boops and jaws string vamp.)

Guy. Uh, Mindy!

Mindy. North America...twenty first century.

(Soundbite of jaws string vamp.)

Guy. Mindy!

Reggie. Cool!

Mindy. One second, Guy Raz.

(Soundbite of something approaching.)

Guy / Reggie. Agghh! / Cool!

Mindy. Here we go!

(Soundbite of whirring and crash.)

Guy. (Groans.)

Mindy. Okay, now what was it you wanted to tell me?

Guy. Never mind.

Reggie. Cool!