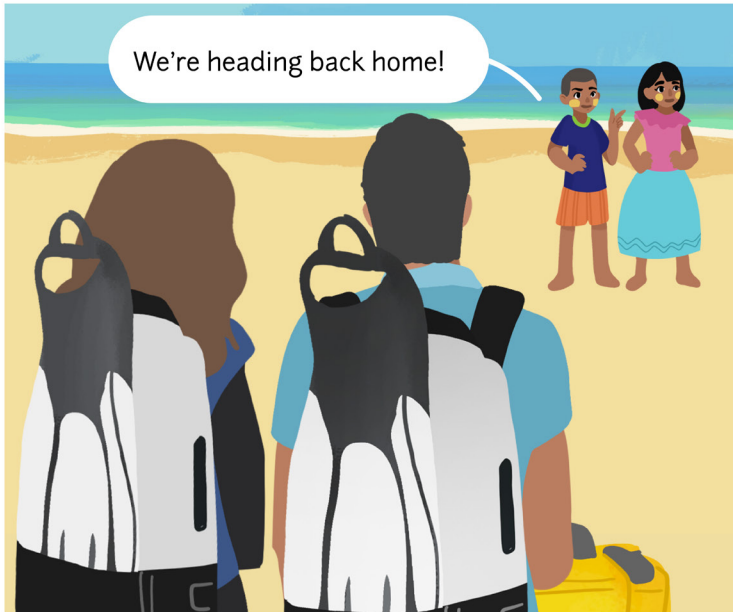


I'd really like to see one too!

You can come along on the boat with us after lunch. I'm taking some world renowned whale shark researchers out to Maw Shay Chaing today.

Yes, please! I'd love to come!



We're heading back home!

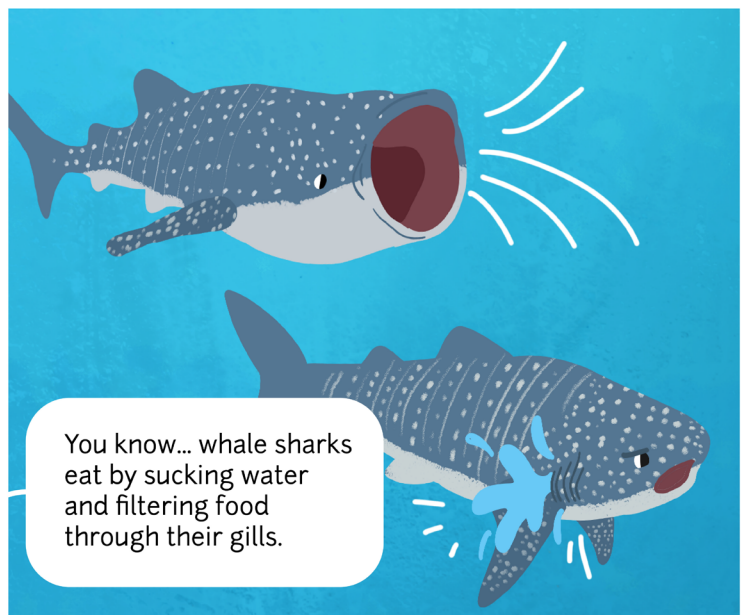
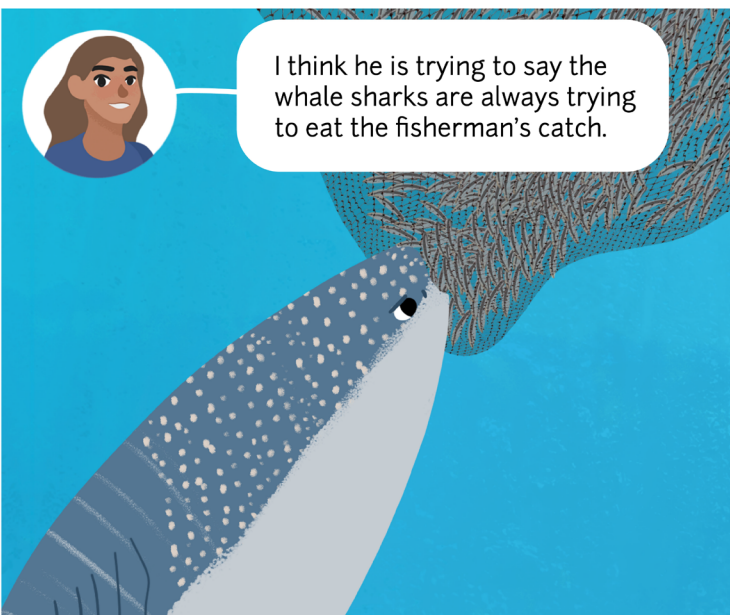
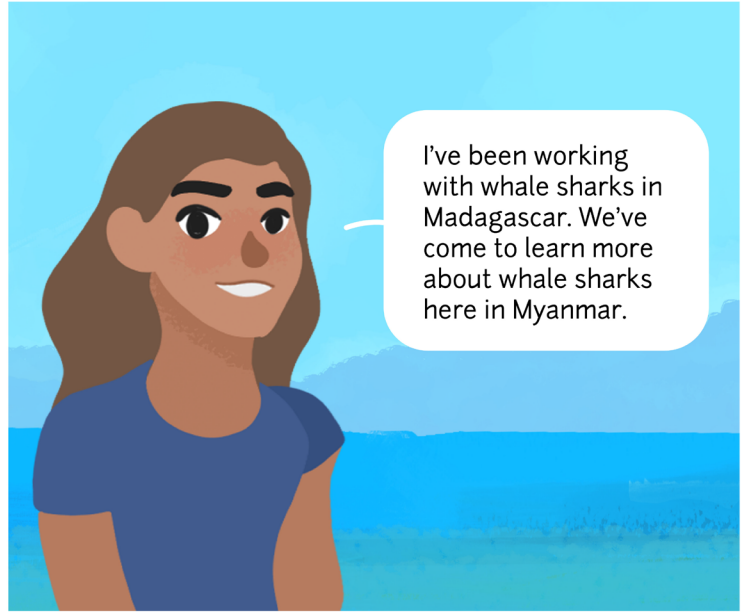
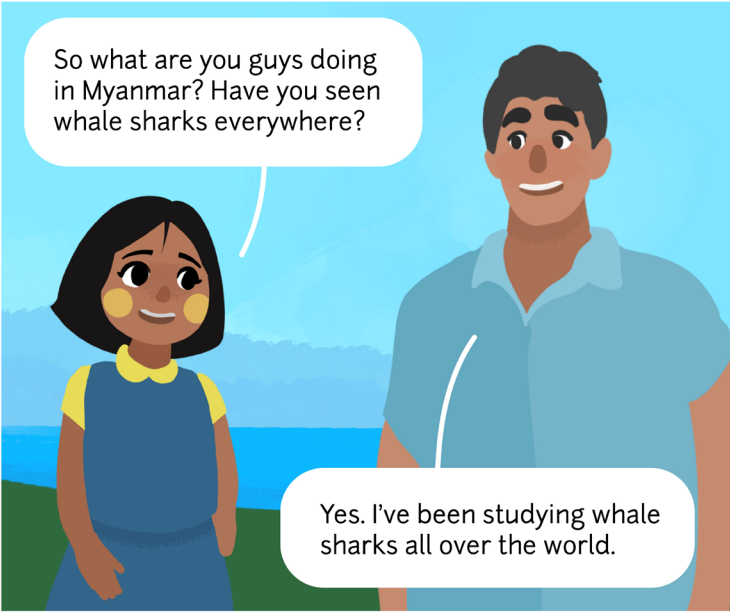


Mingalabar. My name's Simon and this is Stella. Are you the fisherman taking us out today to look for whale sharks?



Yes, yes! Come! We can leave whenever you're ready.

We have this little guest coming along with us today too.



တို့ပင်လယ် တို့အိမ်

The grown-up whale sharks have to filter about 600,000 liters of sea water every hour to get enough food!

That's like 40 million cups of tea in an hour!

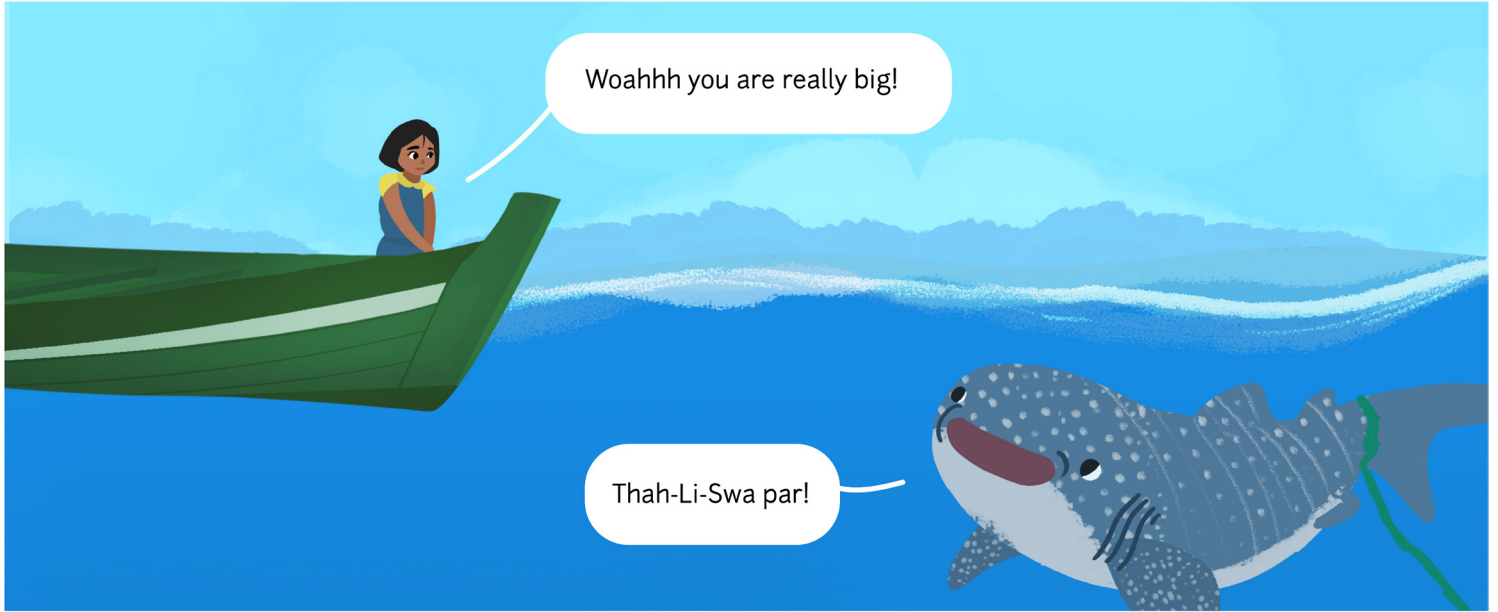
They must be huge! Can they eat me?

Don't worry about that, Thazin. They couldn't swallow you even if they tried. You're too big to be their food.

They only eat small things like zoo-plankton, fish eggs, small bait fish and squids!

Ahh there it is. I see one!

I'm going to stop the boat.



Woahhh you are really big!

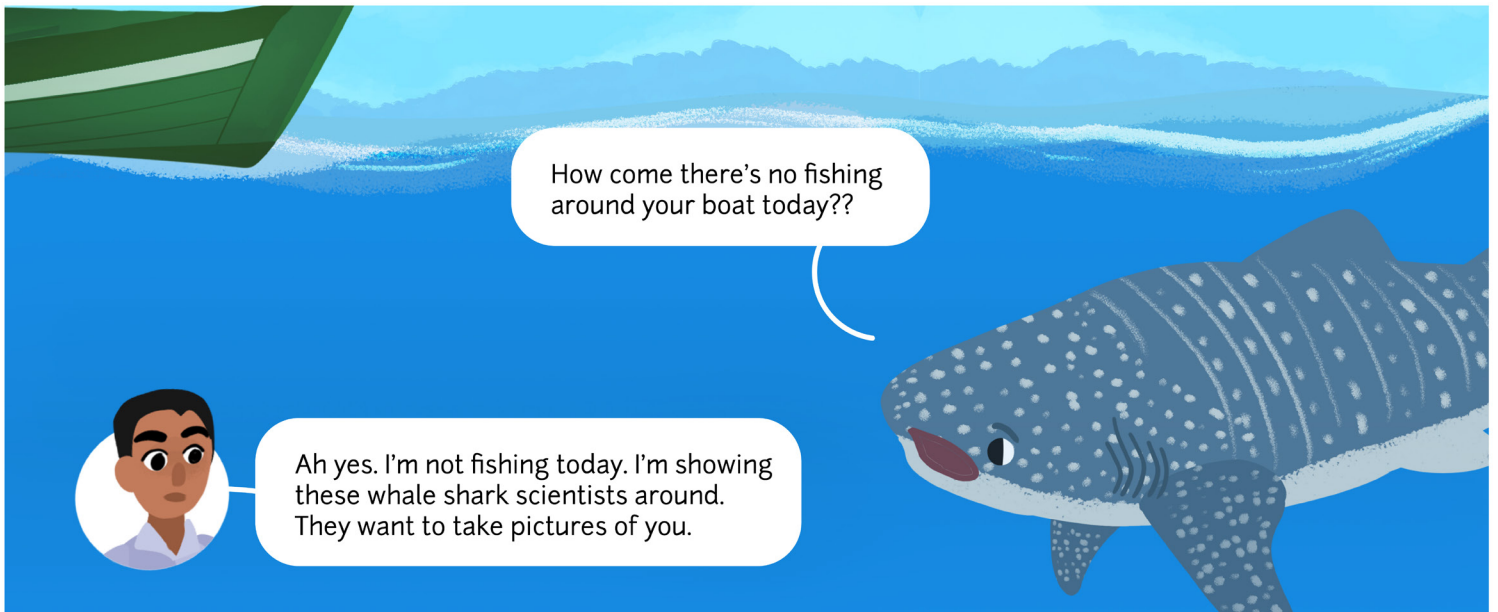
Thah-Li-Swa par!



You speak Rakhine?? Are you from here?



Not from around here. But when you have to travel long distances to find food to fill your big belly, it's good to know a few phrases to make friends you know.




How come there's no fishing around your boat today??



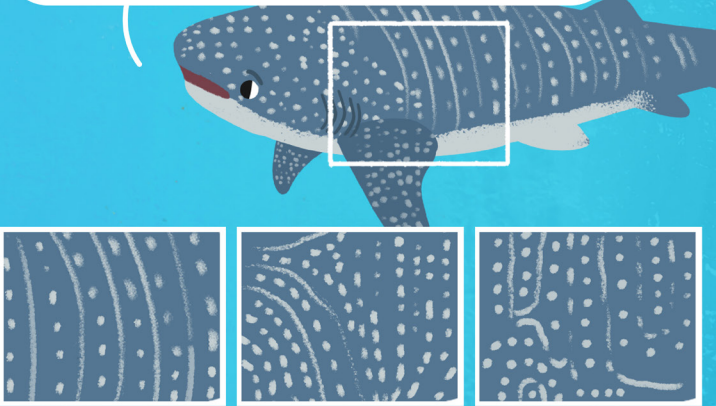
Ah yes. I'm not fishing today. I'm showing these whale shark scientists around. They want to take pictures of you.

Ah, my left side. I've been told about this by my friends.



Do all your friends have the same spots?? You must all be so pretty!



They have the spots as well, but each pattern is unique. Kinda like your fingerprints.



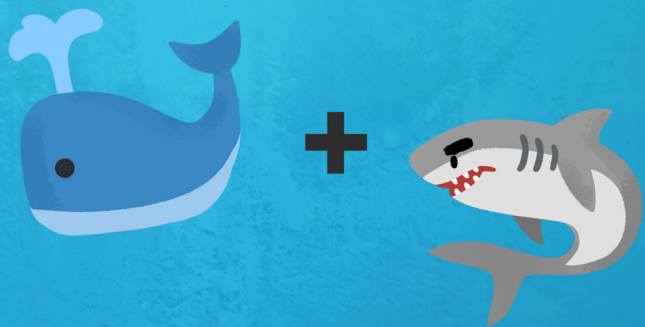
The researchers keep track of our patterns and use them to identify each of us!

I mean they could just ask what my name is. It's Moe Moe.

But people call us by different names everywhere we go.

In places where people speak English, they call us "whale sharks".

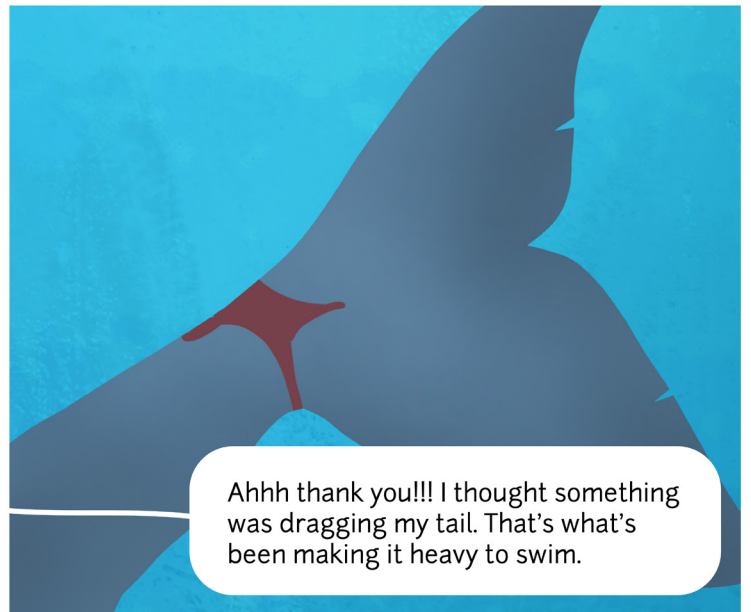



Here in Myanmar they call us "Nga-Man Pa-laung" (ငါးမန်းစားလောင်း), which kind of means tadpole shark. I guess someone here thought we look like a big tadpole?




And in Vietnam we are sometimes called "Ca Ông" which means "Sir Fish"







I feel so much lighter now!
Thank you very much, humans!
Time for my long journey now!



Take care Moe Moe.



You know, in Madagascar
where I work, we call whale
sharks "Marokintana" which
means, "many stars."

I hope you continue on your long journey and
see many stars, like the patterns on your skin!