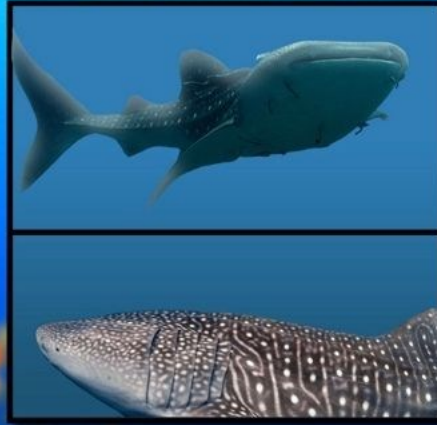




Datiz and the Whale Shark



Datz



Splash
Whale Shark

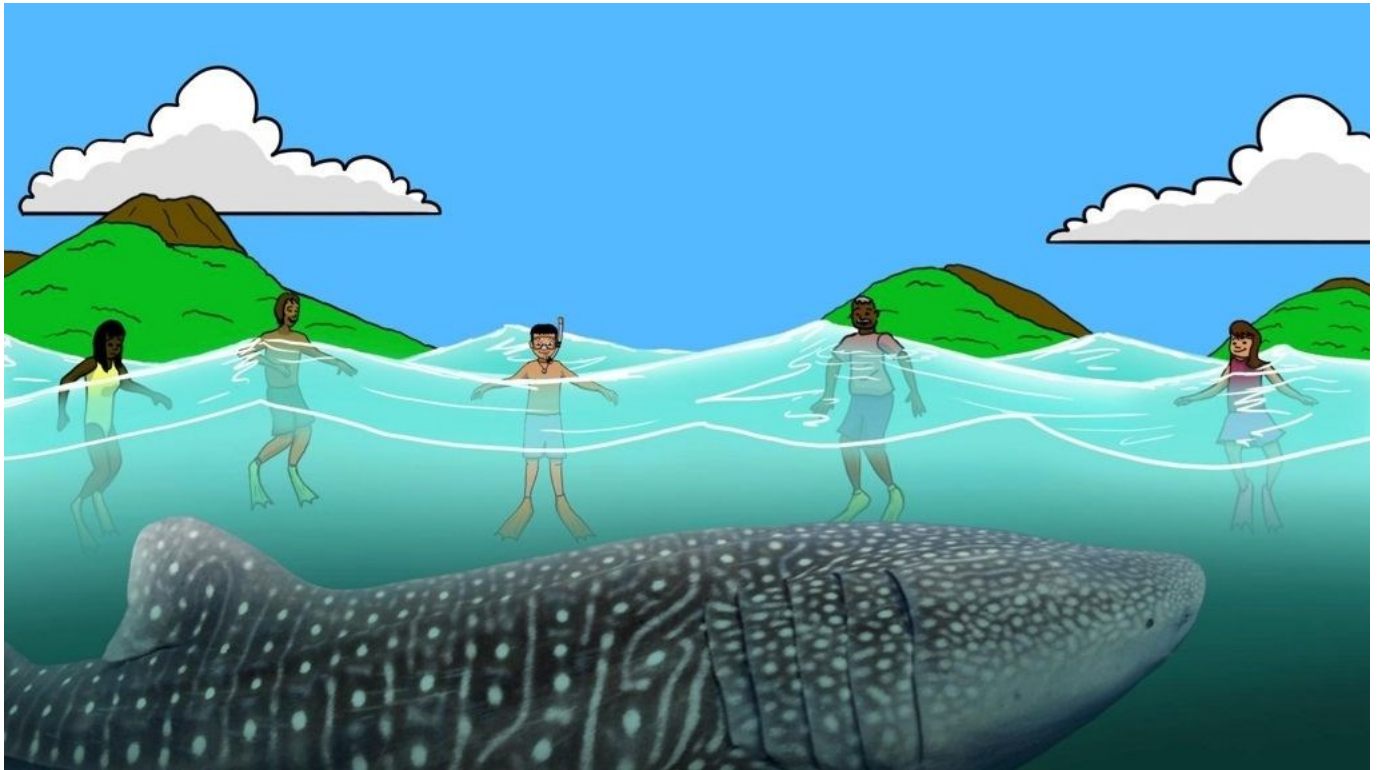
Characters Characters



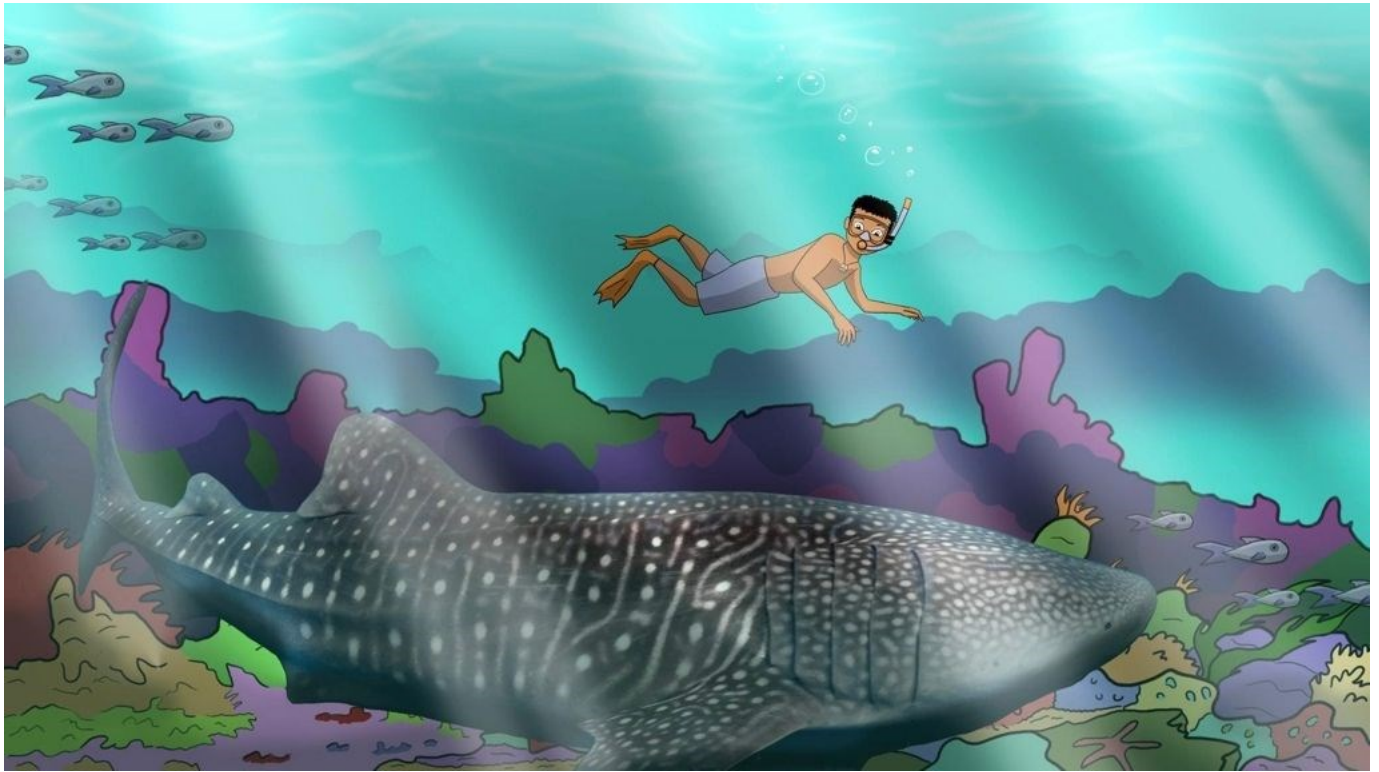
Every day after school, Datiz meets his father on the shores of his island, Mantanani. They take their boat to the coral reefs to catch fish. Teacher Page: The sea is very important to the people who live on Mantanani. The fishermen, who live on the island, catch fish to sell at the market. The sea is so important to the people of Mantanani. Fishermen catch fish to sell at the market, and people buy them to cook and eat.



Every March the whale sharks swim past Mantanani, and everyone swims with them. Datiz and his dad catch fish from the sea. They sell their fresh fish to the merchants at the market. Whale sharks are the biggest fish in the sea, but they are sweet and kind. They can live for 100 years. They spend time near coral reefs eating the tiny animals called plankton. In March, Datiz always meets his friend Splash, the talking whale shark.



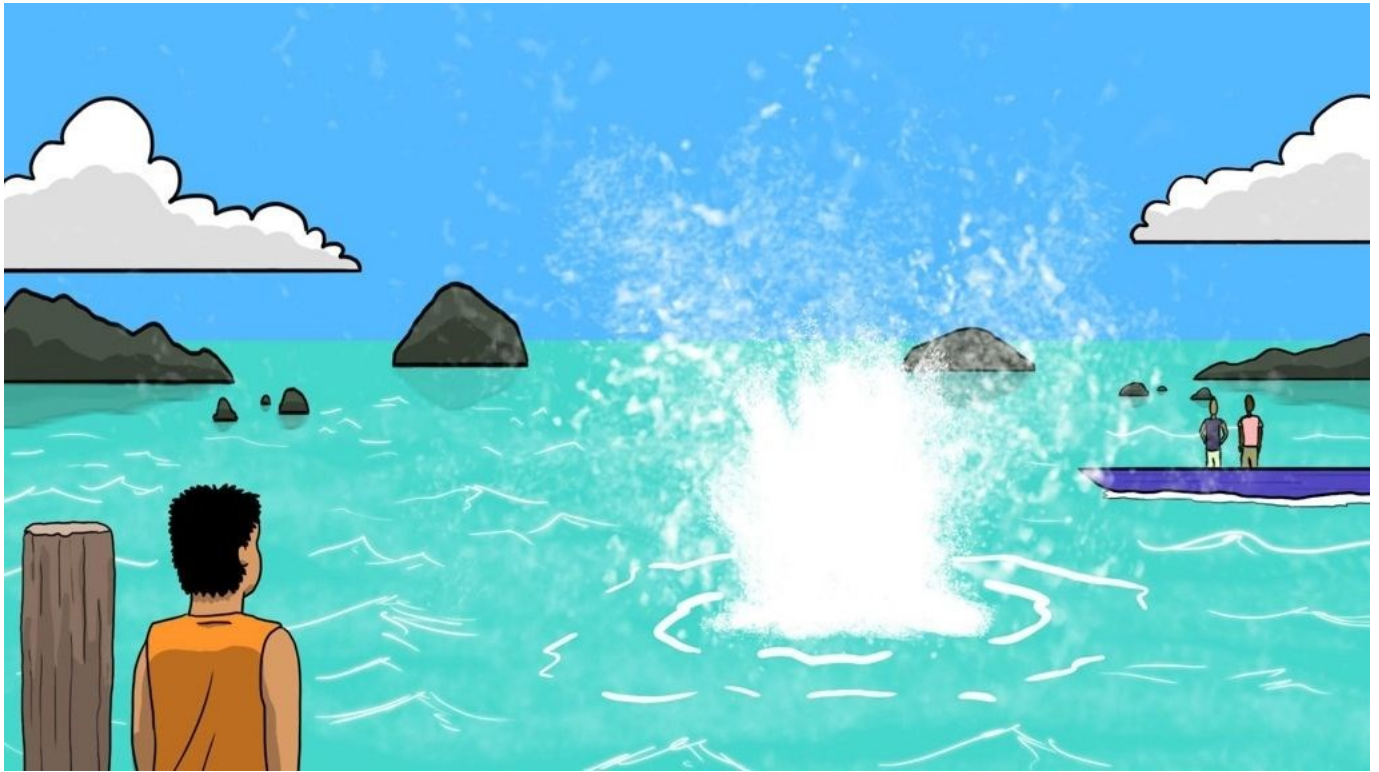
One day, Datiz's uncle comes to Mantanani. He is from an island called Sapi. He teaches Datiz and his dad how to blast fish. "You will catch many fish in less time," he says. "Before all the fish went away from Sapi, we fished like this." Every spring, the gentle whale sharks swim near Datiz and his pals. Datiz likes to swim with his friend, Splash, one of the whale sharks. The whale sharks are the largest fish in the sea. But they will not harm people. Datiz and his dad try it and catch many fish. When the other fishermen see this, they start blast fishing too.



Finally, it's March! One day, Datiz and Splash swim near a coral reef, the home of many sea animals. Datiz inspects all the colorful life swaying back and forth in the coral reef. It is very quiet and peaceful under the sea. Then all of a sudden... Datiz dives into the water to find Splash. The two friends swim around the coral reef together.



Then they hear a loud BOOM! They see bubbles, broken coral, and dead fish. BOOM! BLAST! BOOM! “What’s that?” asks Datiz. Scared, Datiz hops on Splash’s back, and they swim fast to Datiz’s boat. There, they see fishermen throwing fish bombs into the water. They see a trail of destroyed coral. Datiz had never seen blast fishing from under the water. He is horrified to see that blast fishing is destroying the coral reefs. Splash says, “Maybe I will not see you next year. This happened on Sapi, and now whale sharks do not go there because there are no reefs and no plankton..” Datiz had never seen blast fishing from under the water. He is horrified to see that blast fishing is destroying the coral reefs. Splash says, “Maybe I will not see you next year. This happened on Sapi, and now whale sharks do not go there because there are no reefs and no plankton..”



“Stop!” Datiz yells at the fishermen. “The fish bombs are destroying the coral reefs. If there are no reefs, whale sharks will not come back next year!” exclaims Datiz. Back on the dock, Datiz sees a man drop a bomb into the sea.

“We all catch fish like this now. I cannot catch less fish than the other fishermen. I need to sell them at the market,” says the fisherman. BOOM! BLAST! BOOM!



Datiz makes a plan. First, he will tell all the fishermen what he saw. To fix this problem, all the fishermen have to stop blast fishing.

“STOP!” yells Datiz to the fisherman. But, when Datiz talks to the fishermen his father explains, “Because of blast fishing, we have more fish to sell at the market, and the merchant does not care how we catch the fish.” “The blast kills the fish so we can catch them,” says the fisherman. Datiz sees that this is a big problem.

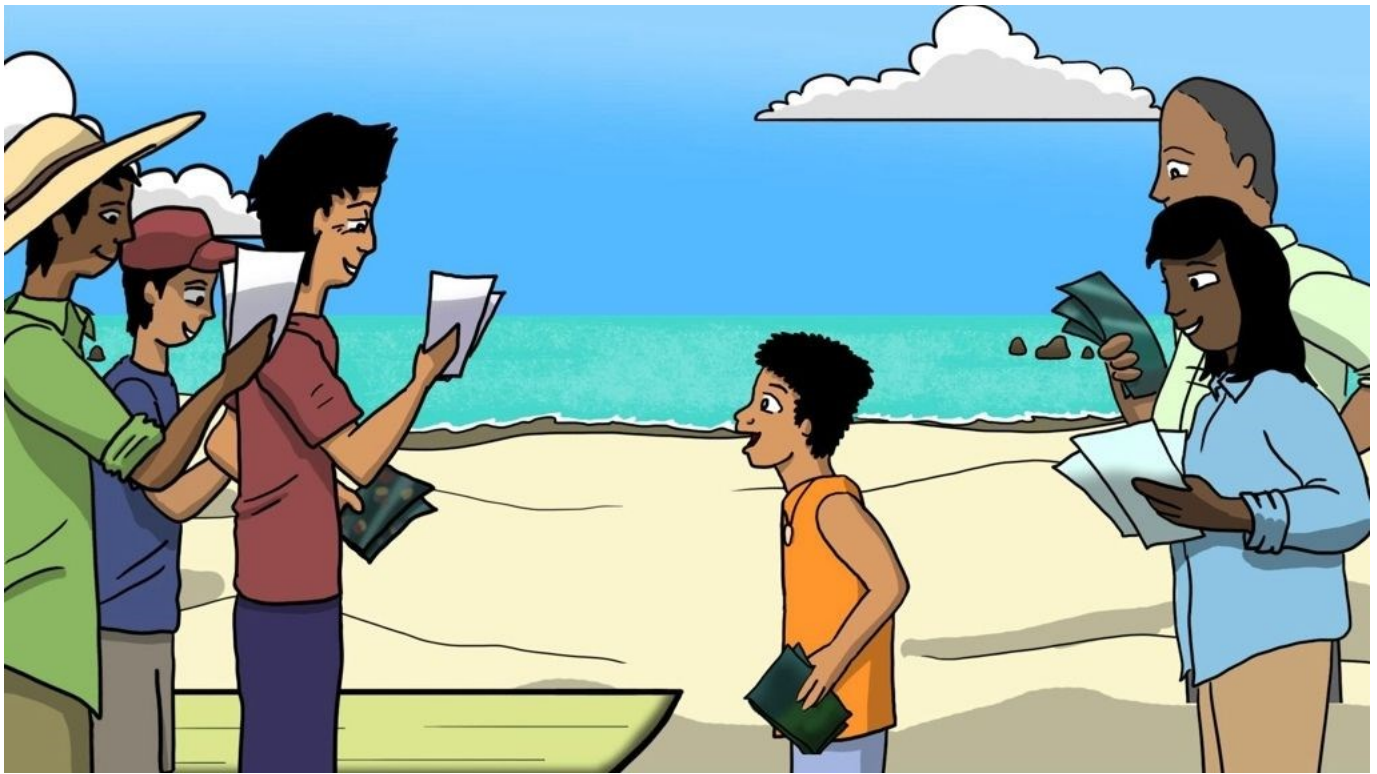
“The bombs also smash, mash, and trash the coral reefs,” says Datiz.



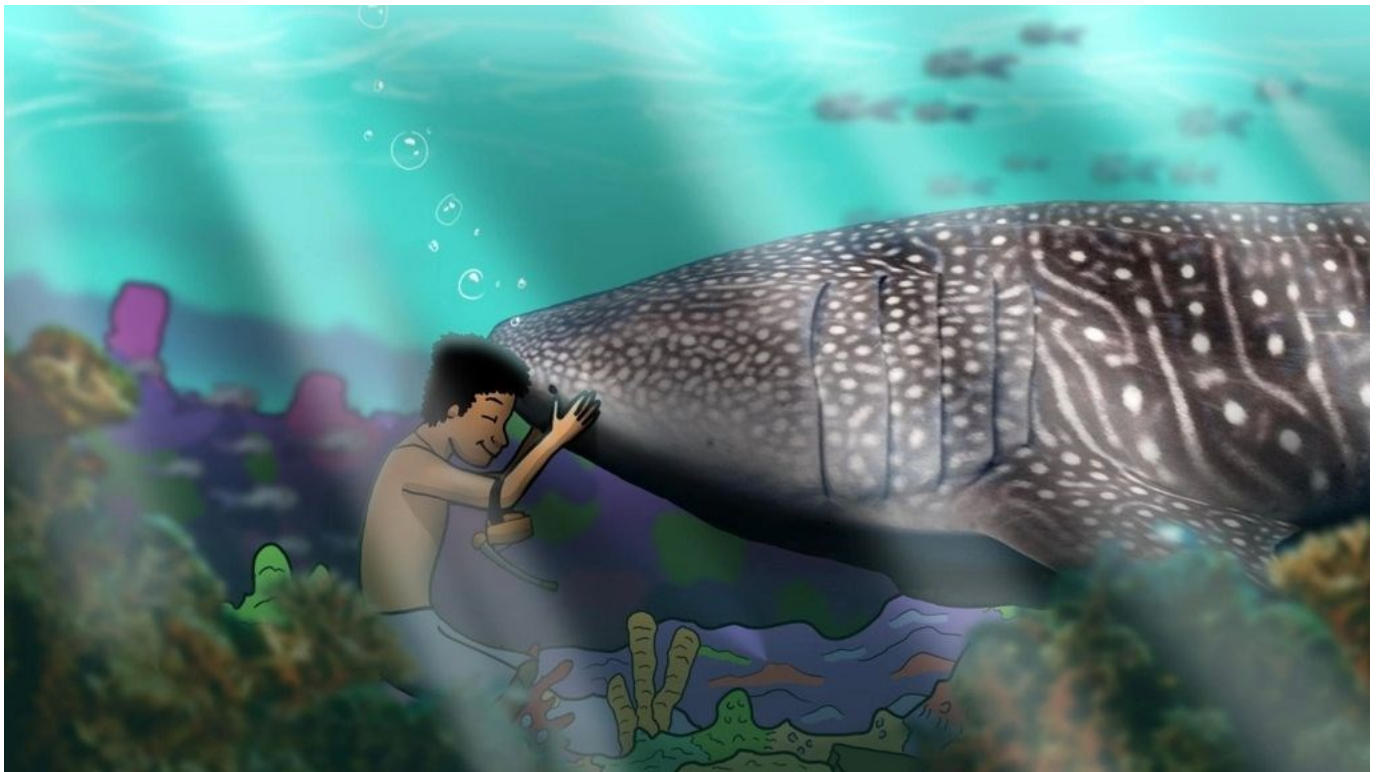
Datiz sees that it is not only the fishermen. He talks to the merchant. The merchant explains, "Now that the fishermen sell me more fish, more chefs buy them from me. They do not care how the fishermen catch the fish." Snap, click, flash! So, Datiz goes to the restaurant. The chef tells him, "Now that the merchants have so many fish, I buy them cheaply and sell meals cheaply. My customers love the cheap meals. They do not care how the fishermen catch the fish." Datiz and Splash take photos of the coral reef after the blast.



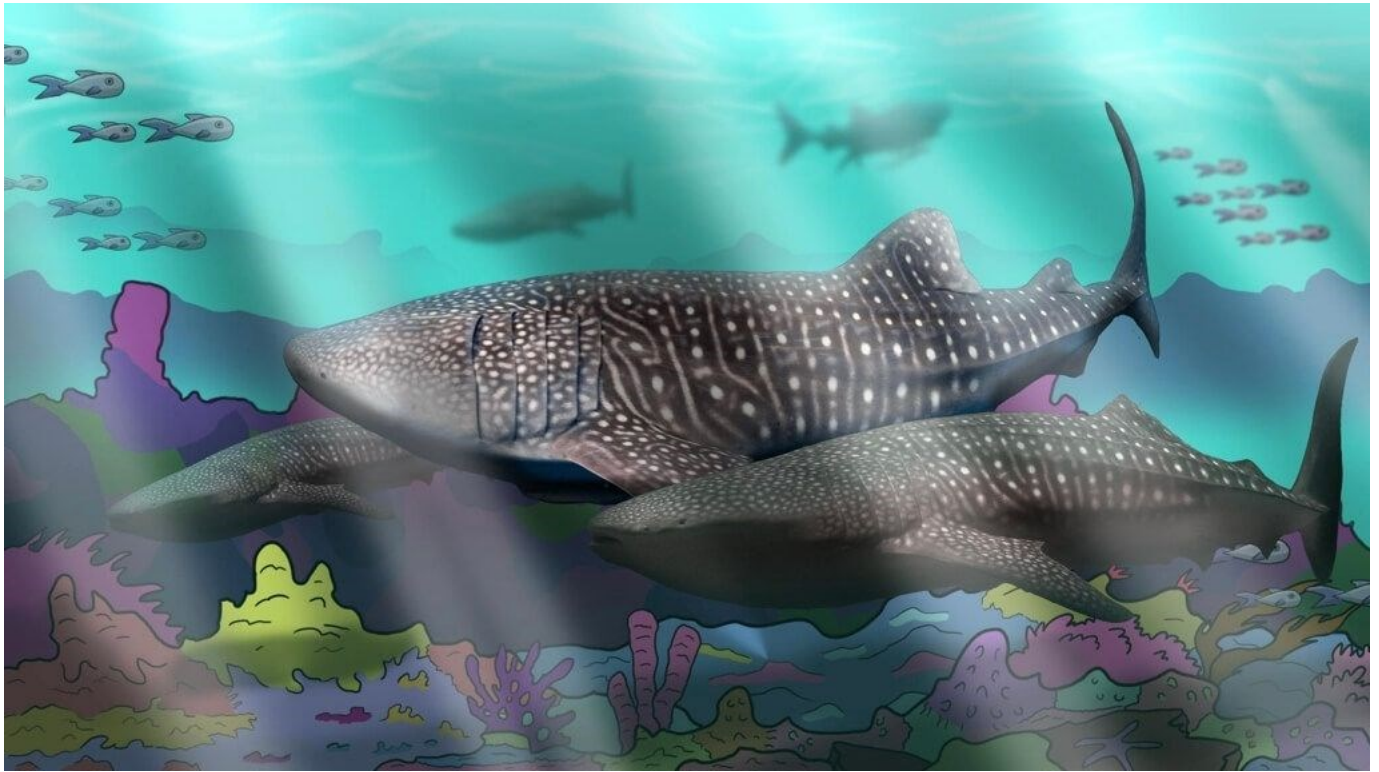
Datiz thinks he needs to tell the customers at the market that blast fishing is destroying the reefs, and the whale sharks will not come back next year. All the kids rush into the class to find out what is happening to the coral reef. Datiz and Splash go to Sapi, where blast fishing has destroyed the coral reefs. Datiz is shocked that he sees no fish and no colorful coral reefs, only murky waters and broken reefs. He takes pictures to show to people at home. The kids in the class tell Datiz, "Don't quit. Get the fishermen to stop blasting the coral reef!"



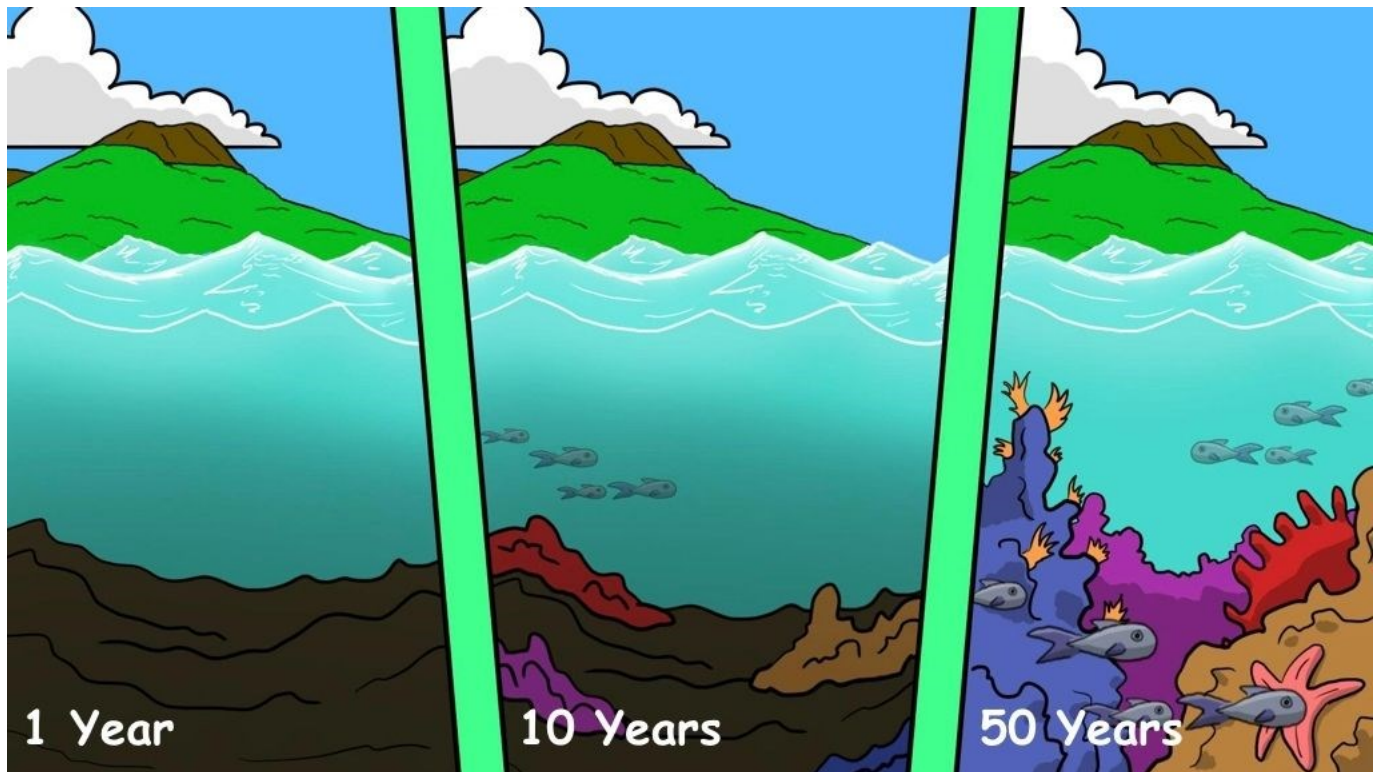
Datiz finds a fisherman on the beach. The fisherman asks why Datiz is on Sapi. Datiz replies, "Can you tell me what happened to your reefs?" The fishermen are in shock when they see the photos. The fisherman says, "It is a sad story. Sapi used to have fish and beautiful coral reefs. The whale sharks came every year. But then we started blast fishing. We were catching so many fish, and no one cared about the reefs. Finally, one year, the whale sharks did not come, and there were no more fish. Then we saw the coral had died. The fish had no home and no food. Now we have to wait for our coral reefs to grow back." The fisherman says, "It is a sad story. Sapi used to have fish and beautiful coral reefs. The whale sharks came every year. But then we started blast fishing. We were catching so many fish, and no one cared about the reefs. Finally, one year, the whale sharks did not come, and there were no more fish. Then we saw the coral had died. The fish had no home and no food. Now we have to wait for our coral reefs to grow back." "We will stop blast fishing to save the coral reefs," promise the fishermen.



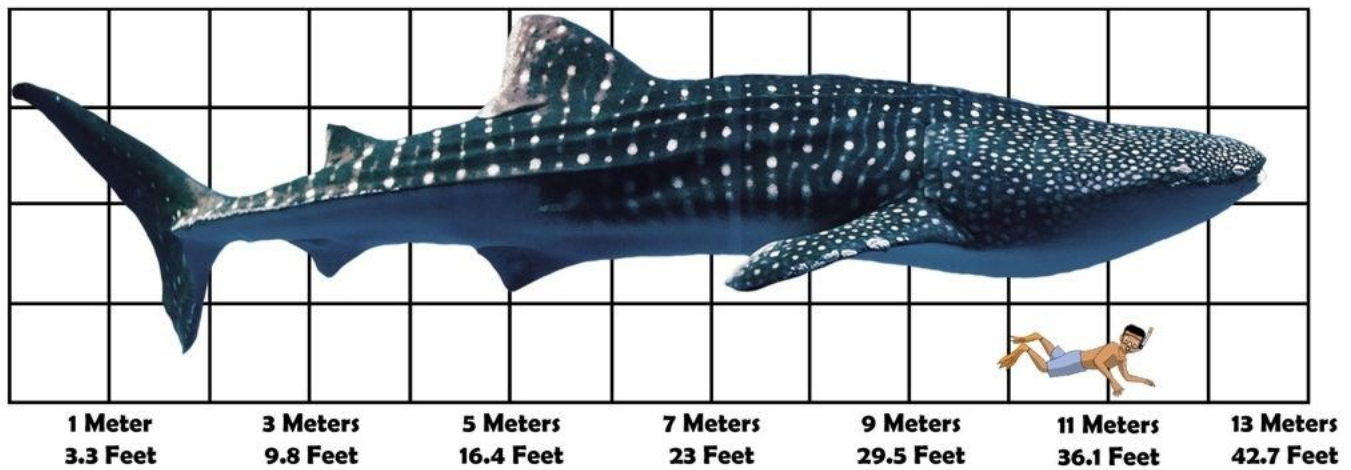
Datz rushes back to Splash and tells her the story. They decide they must tell the people of Mantanani that blast fishing is bad. Soon there will be no more coral reefs and no fish. Splash is grateful to Datz for saving the coral reef. It is time for Splash to leave Mantanani. Datz promises her that he will share the story of Sapi and tell his village to stop blast fishing, so they can save their coral reefs and the whale sharks can come back.



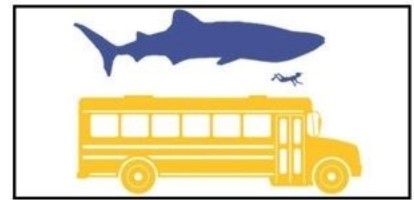
Datiz works all night, printing the pictures from the coral reefs of Sapi, and learning more about blast fishing. As the years pass, Splash returns many times to the coral reef with her children. The next day at school, Datiz shows the pictures to his class and tells them about the awful effects of blast fishing. One student asks, "But what can we do?" Datiz explains, "When we buy fish, we have to demand that they are caught in a sustainable way. If not, soon we will not have any fish, and worst of all, the whale sharks will stop coming!" The other students rush home to tell their families.



A few days later the chef asks to speak with Datiz. “All my customers now want the fish I cook to be sustainably caught! What do I do?” Timeline of Coral Reef Growth Datiz shows his pictures of Sapi and explains that blast fishing is not sustainable. Soon, there will be no fish for him to serve. The chef says, “I will stop buying fish that have been caught using fish bombs, and I will tell other restaurants to do the same. We must share your story with the merchant.”



How big is a full grown whale shark?



Datiz and the chef go to the merchant. The merchant says, "Now my customers will not buy fish that were caught with fish bombs. I don't understand." Datiz shows her his pictures of Sapi. He explains that even though she has many fish to sell now, soon she will have none. The merchant tells him, "I will stop buying fish that were caught with fish bombs. We must share your story with the fishermen."

Whale Shark Facts

- Whale sharks are the largest fish in the sea, even bigger than great white sharks. They can reach lengths of 12 meters (40 feet).
- An average whale shark weighs 20.6 tons, which makes it about the size of a school bus.
- Whale sharks prefer warm water and tropical climates, which means they migrate every spring toward Australia.
- Whale sharks are docile, and they will sometimes allow people to grab their fins and swim with them.
- They are not predatory, but rather eat tiny sea creatures called plankton.
- Whale sharks reach adulthood at around age 25, and they can live to be 100 or 150 years old.



Datiz, the merchant, and the chef go to speak with the fishermen. The merchant tells the fishermen that his customers will not buy fish that were caught with fish bombs.

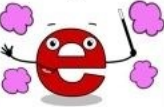
“We do not understand, how can this be unsustainable?” asks a fisherman. Datiz shows them his pictures of Sapi and explains the terrible effects of blast fishing. Datiz’s father says, “I am so sad that our friends on Sapi have no more coral reefs and no more fish to eat. We will share this story with the other fishermen.”

Whale Shark Facts

- Whale sharks are the largest fish in the sea, even bigger than great white sharks. They can reach lengths of 12 meters (40 feet).
- An average whale shark weighs 20.6 tons, which makes it about the size of a school bus.
- Whale sharks prefer warm water and tropical climates, which means they migrate every spring toward Australia.
- Whale sharks are docile, and they will sometimes allow people to grab their fins and swim with them.
- They are not predatory, but rather eat tiny sea creatures called plankton.
- Whale sharks reach adulthood at around age 25, and they can live to be 100 or 150 years old.



Next March, Datz is excited to see Splash! The friends swim around the reefs, which are still colorful and alive. Splash tells Datz, "Thank you for teaching the fishermen how to sustainably fish. The reefs are so beautiful because you never gave up!" Datz is happy, but he asks, "What about Sapi? How do their reefs look?" Splash smiles and says, "Their reefs are getting better. Soon, the people of Sapi will have plenty of fish to eat and the whale sharks will go there again."

Open 	Closed 	Magic e 	Vowel Digraph Vowel Team 	R-Controlled 	Diphthong Vowel Team 	Consonant+le 
pho/to	fell	whale	sea	fish/ er /man		gen/ tle
	catch	sway	peo /ple	mar /ket		peo /ple
	fish	home	reef	mer /chants		
	fresh	save	bear	ev/ er /y		
	spring		grow	shark		
	swim		boom	lar /gest		
	in/spects			cor /al		
	smash			harm		
	quit			af/ ter		



Some rights reserved. This book is Creative Commons BY-SA 4.0 licensed. You may copy, modify, distribute, or perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, see <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

NEST-USA, Inc © 2017 distributed under the CC BY-NC 4.0 license.

50 years have passed and the whale sharks pass Mantanani every year. Splash brings her family now and remembers her time with Datiz years ago. Splash tells the young whale sharks about blast fishing and how she and Datiz made a difference. As they pass Sapi, she remembers how the reefs used to look and smiles as she watches her pups swim and play in the colorful reefs.