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Word CHANGER

Change one letter and arrange them on the next line to make a new word. Use the clues to help you change a short-tailed tree shrew into an American bison. The answer is below.

S H R E W

Where water and land meet

Drills

A skeleton is made up of these

B I S O N

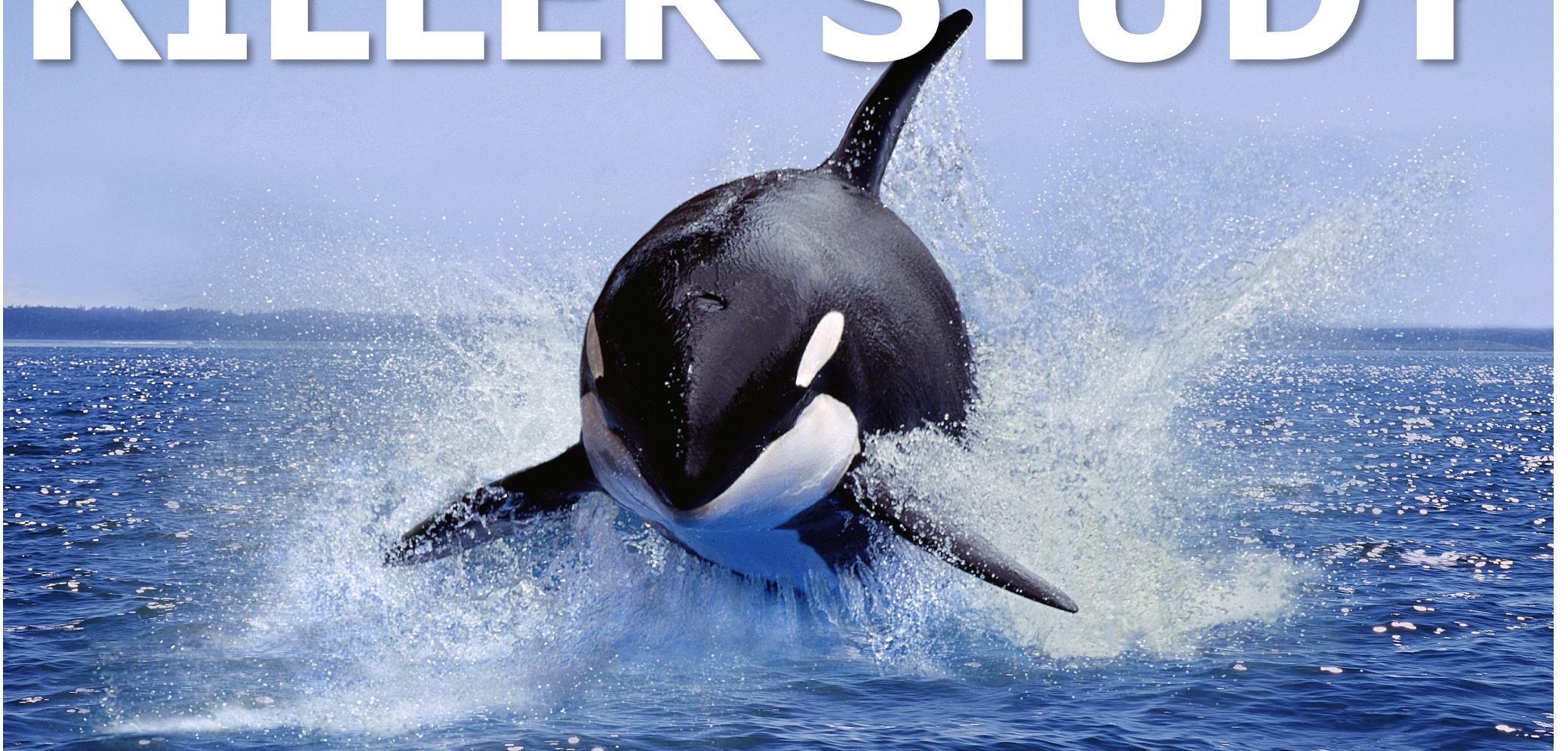
SOLUTION: SHREW, SHORE, BONES, BISON, BISON

DID YOU KNOW?

American bison are also known as buffalo. The males (bulls) weigh up to 900kg and stand almost 2 metres at the shoulder. The females weigh up to 320kg and stand about 1.5 metres at the shoulder.



KILLER STUDY



KILLER whales, also known as orcas, have a fearsome reputation.

But no fatal attacks on humans have ever been recorded in the wild.

They are exceptional hunters though.

They hunt in pods, and use echolocation to locate their prey by sending out a series of clicking sounds. When these sound waves hit an object, echoes bounce back to the killer whales.

But new research has revealed the effort killer whales will go to for a quick meal.

The study led by scientists from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), at the University of Tasmania, and Deakin University, documented some killer whales travelling hundreds of kilometres between longline fishing vessels to grab fish off hooks.

"While one killer whale we tracked covered an exceptional 1000 kilometres over 16 days, another swam more than 180 kilometres in 18 hours," IMAS lead



TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN: A killer whale in Canadian waters, top, and one of the animals photographed by IMAS scientist Matthew Cieslak during the study of killer whales following Australian fishing vessels. Pictures: Matthew Cieslak; iStock/ slowmotiongli

author of the study Matthew Cieslak said.

One of the interesting things about the research was the scientists turned the tables on the orcas by using acoustic detection devices to track them.

They also took photos of the whales to identify individuals.

The research is important, because

marine predators removing catch from fishing gear is a worldwide problem, and can result in injuries to the animals.

You can find out more here: www.imas.utas.edu.au/news

Killer whales are 'apex predators', which means they have no natural predator themselves.

The only threat to orcas is the activity of

humans. They are at the top of their food chain, and can be found in all the oceans of the world, in a wide variety of marine habitats.

Their diet is also diverse, but different groups of killer whales tend to favour certain types of prey over others.

They are not actually a whale at all, killer whales are the largest member of the dolphin family.

Scientists have identified several different types of killer whales, each with their own language, food preferences and breeding populations.

Some scientists even believe they might qualify as different species.

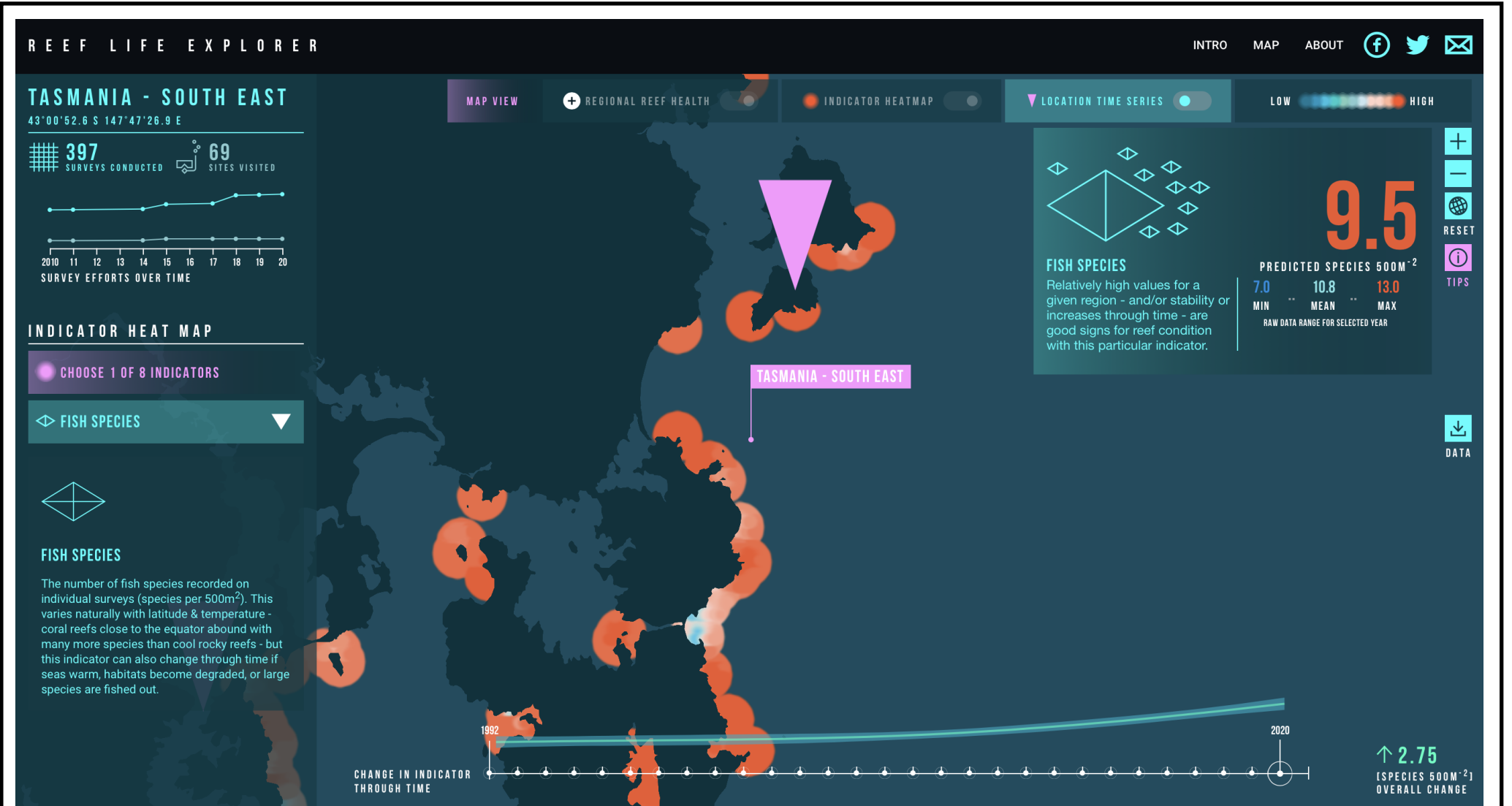
Anyway, because these groups eat different food, the populations do not compete with each other.

In Antarctic waters, for example, there are at least five different types.

One stays well clear of ice and feeds mostly on minke whales.

Others hunt seals or penguins around the pack ice, and another feeds on fish in the channels of the pack ice.

"Education perhaps more than anything else is a passport to a better life." - Peter Underwood AC



It's a reef revelation

A reef is a raised area of material at the surface of the ocean, or just below. Natural reefs consist of rock ledges, or in the case of coral reefs, clusters of tiny organisms known as coral polyps. The Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Queensland, is the most famous example of the latter. It is the world's largest coral reef system, so large it can be seen from outer space. But there are reefs all around the world, and exploring them is now possible without leaving home thanks to a global partnership which includes the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, at the University of Tasmania.



-Smith said. "Researchers at Reef Life Survey and IMAS at the University of Tasmania have processed and analysed millions of data points to distil and present these trends."

The best part of all is Reef Life Explorer will continue to grow and provide more information as more divers and collaborators contribute more data from more reefs,

This site is awesome, and if you don't believe us, check it out for yourself: reeflifesurvey.com

You might like to search reef species and gather some information on one that interests you.

There are some animals you will already know, and many other weird and wonderful creatures to be discovered.

You might come across a good friend of *The Wonder Weekly*, the red handfish.

Children's University Tasmania members can earn stamps in their passports for this challenge, at the discretion of their school coordinator.

[Reef Life Explorer](http://reeflifesurvey.com) is an interactive digital tool for tracking the health of vital reef ecosystems. Reef Life Survey president, IMAS marine ecologist Rick Stuart-Smith said it made the underwater world visible, bringing to life data from more than 26,000 surveys across 4000 sites in 54 countries and territories.

RESOURCE: A map of Tasmania's south-east displaying the number of fish species, top, is an example of the information available on Reef Life Explorer. Hundreds of divers have surveyed thousands of reefs around the world. Picture: Rick Stuart-Smith

And wait for it, there is data on almost 5000 species and more than 19 million individual animals.

"Hundreds of highly trained citizen

scientist divers have surveyed thousands of reefs in a mammoth effort to monitor and track the state of our global reef ecosystems," Associate Professor Stuart

Live show to discuss Christmas marketing

TASMANIA is home to a fantastic array of bird life. This week's session of *UCTV Alive for Kids*, the Peter Underwood Centre's interactive, live show, will focus on the importance of our birds and how we can restore their habitats. Dr Glen Bain, from the University of Tasmania, will lead the session, which will be targeted at Year 5-6 students, but is open to

people of all ages. The broadcast will be delivered via Zoom webinar from 9:15am-10am on Wednesday, December 16, with child safe protocols in place. If you would like to participate, please register by December 15, via the Peter Underwood Centre Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UnderwoodCentre

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