



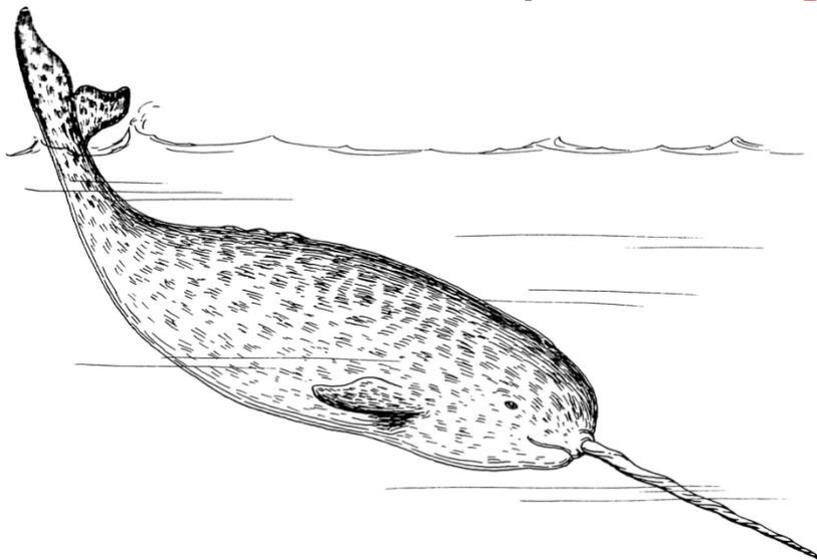
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The narwhal

This is not a creature out of Star Wars or a Harry Potter story. It is not a dinosaur which went extinct hundreds of thousands of years ago.

The **narwhal** is a medium-sized whale which lives in the cold waters around Greenland, Canada and Russia.

It is different from other whales because it has a long tusk coming out of its head. That tusk is actually a tooth. **[Strange but true]**



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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Narwhal_\(PSF\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Narwhal_(PSF).png)]

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[Wikimedia Commons: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Narwalschaedel.jpg>]

Sometimes skeletons teach us plenty. In the bottom skeleton we see that sometimes [not often] narwhals have two tusks rather than one.



[This map was released into the public domain by its author, Vardion – which is very generous.]

So, narwhals are found in the water around Canada, Greenland and Russia. Are they found around Australia?

A couple of last things about narwhals

1. They are whales – so they are not fish. They don't get their oxygen out of the water – they breathe air – they come up and breathe air in through a hole in the top of their heads. [All whales do, as you know]
2. You would think they would spear things with their tusk – but they don't – it seems to just be there for decoration.

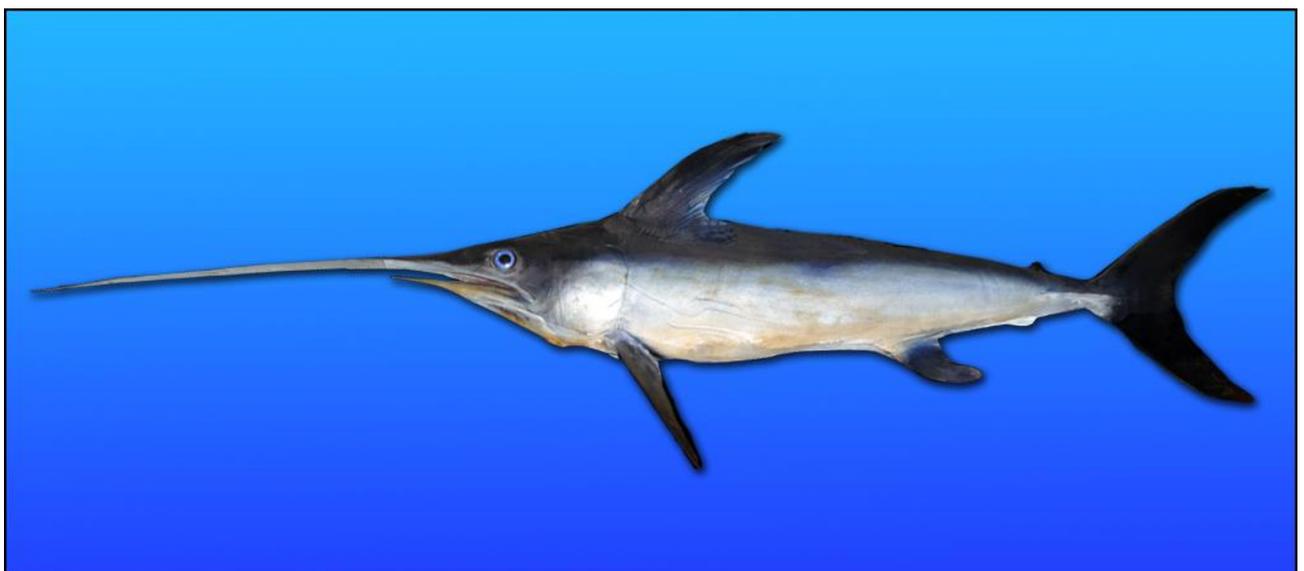
Swordfish

We have to say something about swordfish because they remind us of narwhals. But, they are not related.

But, swordfish are fish – that means they get their oxygen out of the water – and they don't have a hole in the top of their heads.

They have a long pointed bill.

They live not in the cold water of the Arctic region, but in the warm water around the middle of the world.



[From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Swordfish-0046.jpg>]

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Skeleton of a swordfish.



[From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Swordfish_skeleton.jpg]

Do swordfish use their bill to stab things?

The answer is NO. But, they do slash it about from side to side and injure fish so they can catch them easily and eat them.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Howard

Howard who?

Howard you like a kiss?

Knock, knock.

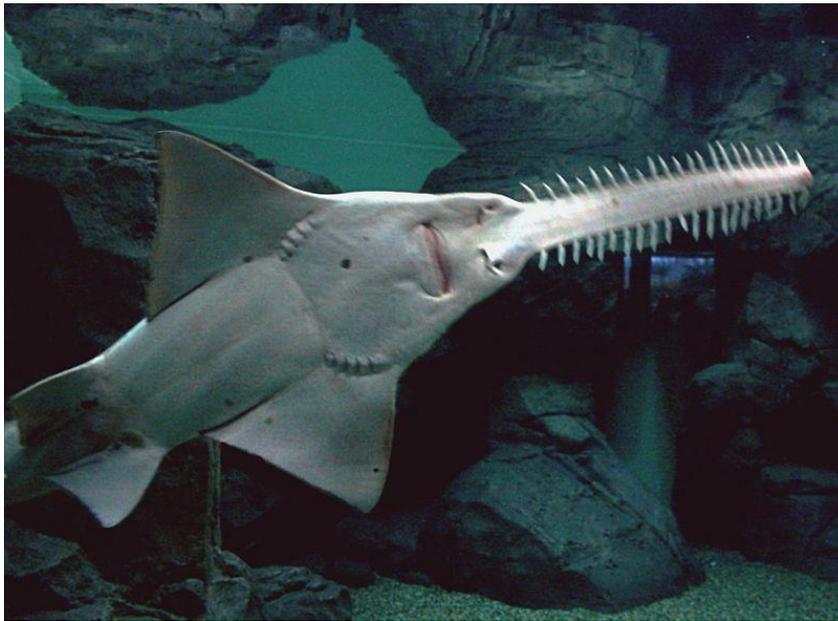
Who's there?

Wendy

Wendy who?

Wendy Easter Bunny coming?

Sawfish



[From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository
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Now, we have to admit – the sawfish is a pretty creepy-looking fish.

It has a long nose extension, and teeth sticking out both sides.

Sawfish were once plentiful – but, there has been a drastic decline and they are now only found around Northern Australia and Florida, in the USA. They have been hunted for their saws and their habitats [where they like to live] have been destroyed.

Yes, like the swordfish, they slash their saws from side to side to injure small fish so they can catch and eat them.

