

SHARK FACT FILES

# THE TIGER SHARK





Jump into the cockpit and  
take flight with **Pilot books**.  
Your journey will take you on  
high-energy adventures as  
you learn about all that is wild,  
weird, fascinating, and fun!

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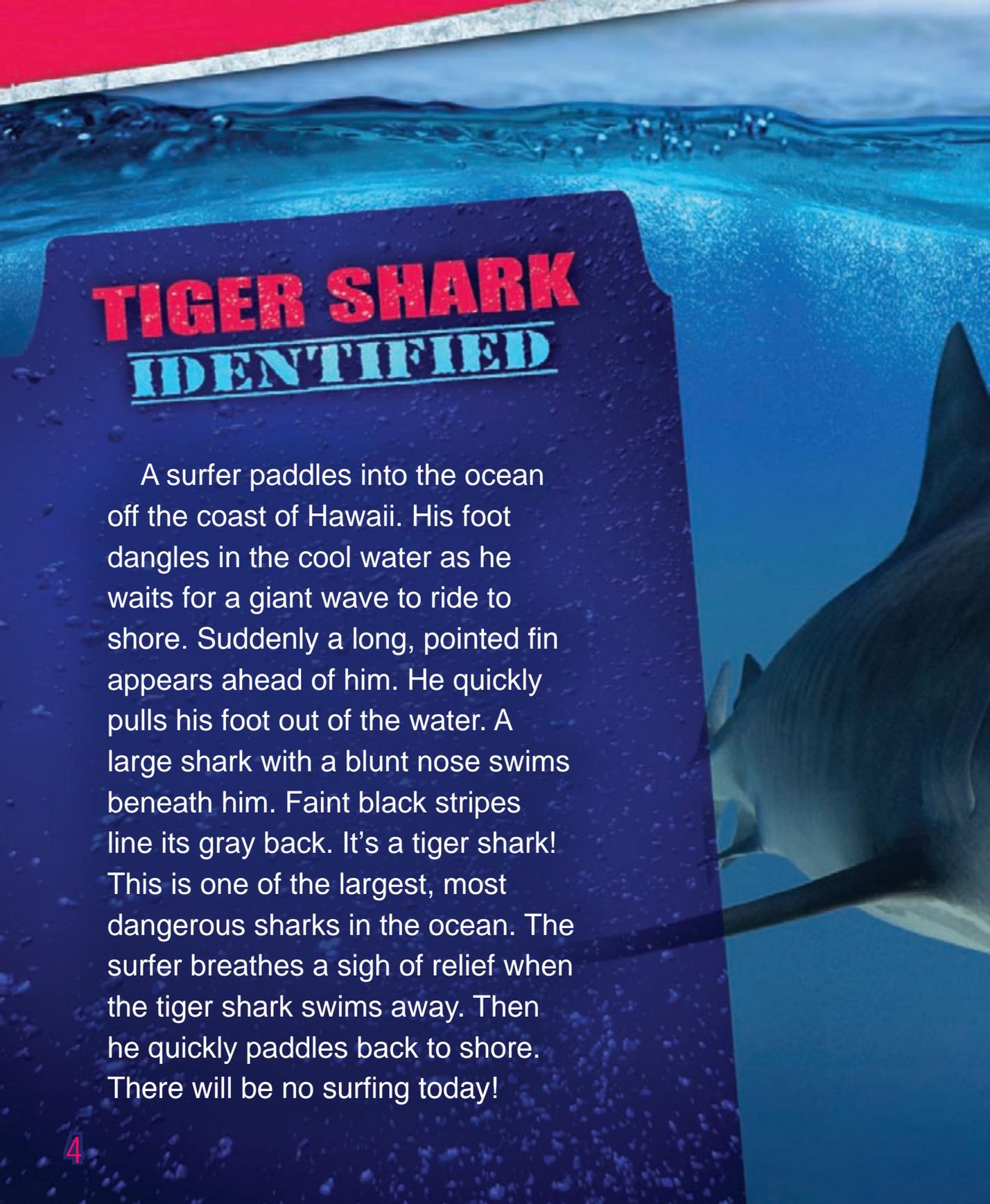
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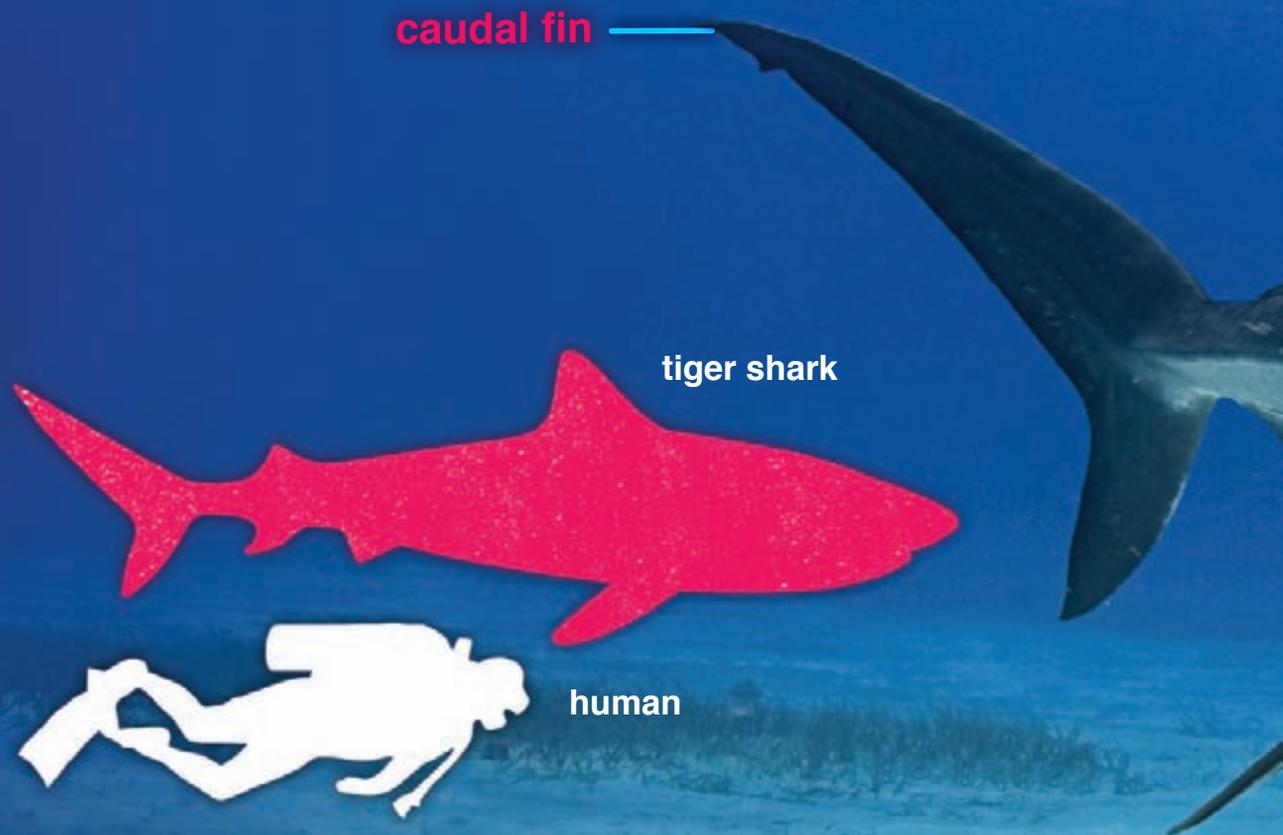
# **TIGER SHARK**

## **IDENTIFIED**

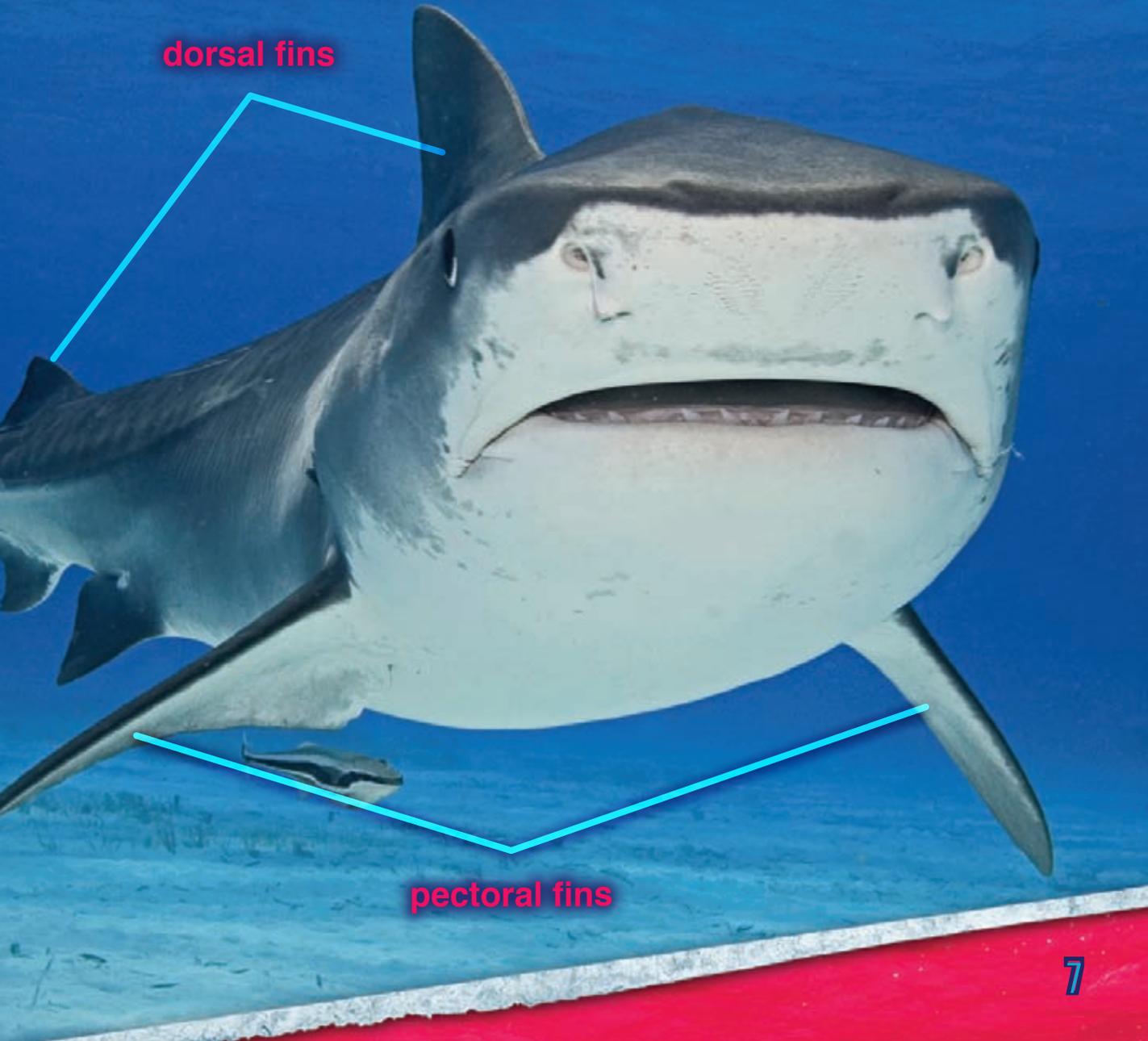
A surfer paddles into the ocean off the coast of Hawaii. His foot dangles in the cool water as he waits for a giant wave to ride to shore. Suddenly a long, pointed fin appears ahead of him. He quickly pulls his foot out of the water. A large shark with a blunt nose swims beneath him. Faint black stripes line its gray back. It's a tiger shark! This is one of the largest, most dangerous sharks in the ocean. The surfer breathes a sigh of relief when the tiger shark swims away. Then he quickly paddles back to shore. There will be no surfing today!



The tiger shark gets its name from the spots and stripes on its gray body. Its belly is yellowish white in color. This **countershading** allows the shark to blend in with the colors of the ocean and sneak up on prey. The tiger shark averages 10 to 14 feet (3 to 4.3 meters) in length and weighs up to 1,400 pounds (635 kilograms). The largest tiger sharks grow to be more than 20 feet (6.1 meters) long and can weigh nearly 2,000 pounds (907 kilograms).



The tiger shark's skeleton is made of **cartilage**. This light, flexible tissue allows it to move and bend easily. The shark sways its powerful **caudal fin** to gain speed. The **pectoral fins** allow it to steer and slow down. The **dorsal fins** keep the shark upright and balanced.



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