

then turns slightly and raise its tail high into the air, crashing it down on the shark's head. The next part is quite amazing: as though it has some knowledge of shark biology, the orca flips the shark over, sending into a stupor that scientists call "tonic immobility". Now paralyzed, the shark makes for an easy (and safe) meal.

**3) The 'Pod Pin' Works on: Narwhal**

The NATURE episode *Invasion of the Killer Whales* shows orcas using a hunting strategy that had never been documented before on film. This could be due to the fact

-6-

that killer whales have never had such easy access to a large group of narwhals — the prey animal featured. Narwhals are medium-sized toothed whales who gather to breed amidst Arctic pack ice. Historically, killer whales haven't been able to access their breeding grounds, but vanishing sea ice has changed that. In the film, killer whales chase down an entire pod of narwhal and then, in a formation similar to the 'Wave Wash', charge the pod, pinning the narwhal in shallow water. Carnage ensues.

**4) The 'D-Day' (a.k.a. 'Storming the Beach') Works on: Sea lions, elephant**

-7-

**seals**

Sea lions swimming off the Atlantic coast of South America probably breathe a little easier once they've made it back to the beach. After all, they seem to be safely out of reach of orcas lurking in deeper waters nearby. That false sense of security is quickly dashed when an orca charges the shore and snatches the sea lion, beaching itself in the process. The orca is the only whale known to purposely beach itself. It uses a flapping, hopping motion to shuffle its enormous body back into the water.

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-5-

In a "Who's the Top Predator?" contest, the orca is the hands-down favorite over sharks. In fact, the great white, the largest predatory shark in the world, has only one natural enemy—the orca. But hunting sharks is a risky business for killer whales. Rows of razor sharp teeth can pierce even the thickest whale hide. Accordingly, the orca has developed an efficient way to dispatch these sharp-toothed snack items. Using its broad tail, the killer whale pushes the shark to the surface on a watery vortex. It

-4-

Seals are a favorite food item of orcas living around the Antarctic ice shelf. By perching on ice floes, seals stay just out of reach. However, killer whales have devised a clever way to dump the seals into the water. They charge the ice floe in tight formation, creating a huge wave front. Just before reaching the ice, they dive underneath, giving a last-second push to the wave with their tails. The resulting wall of water crashes over the ice floe and sweeps the seal off.

-3-

Orca intelligence isn't unexpected given that it is a highly social animal that hunts in coordinated packs. Some of the smartest animals in the world—chimps, elephants, dogs, humans—are also highly social. As a result of their intelligence and sociability, killer whale pods have developed novel hunting strategies that are handed down through multiple generations. The techniques vary from region to region depending on available food items, but they all are a testament to the killer whale's keen predatory intelligence and ingenuity.

-2-

Contrary to the ones in the ocean theme parks, you would think the orca is harmless. But they are actually the most devastating animals that can even kill sharks! And did you know that the orca is a dolphin? Here are more information: length: male:5-6m male:6-8m weight: up to 11 tons speed:48km/h enemies:none age: 50-80years

**2) The 'Karate Chop' Works on: Sharks**