Fast Facts About Great Lakes Sea Lampreys

1. Sea lampreys are an invasive species in the Great Lakes. Their original home is the Atlantic Ocean.

2. Sea lampreys belong to an ancient family of jawless fish that were around before the dinosaurs.

3. Sea lampreys, like sharks, don’t have any bones! They are completely cartilaginous.

4. Sea lampreys are born without eyes, fins, or teeth.

5. Sea lampreys are parasites, meaning they can only survive if they have a host to feed from. One sea lamprey can kill up to 40 pounds of Great Lakes fish.

6. Sea lampreys are like swimming noses. Adults choose spawning sites where they can smell young lampreys.

7. Sea lampreys are strong! They use their mouths to move rocks as big as a softball when building nests for spawning.

8. One female sea lamprey can produce 100,000 eggs. About 10% survive, producing 10,000 new sea lampreys.

9. You can swim without fear! Sea lampreys do not attack people – they only feed on cold-blooded creatures.

10. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission has reduced sea lamprey populations by 90%, protecting Great Lakes fish from harm.

Visit SeaLamprey.org to learn more facts about sea lampreys!