

# ANCIENT LIVING THINGS!

From a shark born before Isaac Newton to a 1000-year-old giant tube worm, here are a few of the oldest living things on Earth!

2

The **Pando aspen grove** is a massive clone – a group of genetically identical trees that started from one seed. Each tree lives around 130 years, but the clone could be 14,000 years old.



4

A **trapdoor spider** called 'Number 16' lived in the same burrow in Western Australia for her whole life, before being killed by a parasitic wasp at the ripe old age of 43.



5

The **humongous fungus** is a huge underground network of mycelium (fungal fillaments) found in Oregon, USA. Scientists guess it's between 2,000 and 8,000 years old!



1

**Greenland sharks** probably have the longest lifespan of any living vertebrate species. One studied in 2016 is thought to be around 400 years old!



3

Many **deep-sea sponges** live for a long time. The giant barrel sponge is thought to live for more than 2,300 years, and one specimen of *Monorhaphis chuni* was estimated to have been growing for around 11,000 years!



8

Bristlecone pine trees can live for around 5,000 years. **Methuselah the bristlecone pine** is thought to have germinated in 2833 BC, before the 365-day calendar was invented in ancient Egypt!

10



**Immortal jellyfish** begin as larvae, then become polyps and finally mature into adult jellyfish. When stressed, injured, old or sick, they can change their cells and turn back into polyps. This cycle can repeat again and again, so they could theoretically live forever!

7

Jonathan (left) in Victorian times

The oldest known living land animal is **Jonathan the Seychelles giant tortoise**. Scientists think that he had hatched by 1832, making him at least 192 years old. The oldest recorded tortoise lived to be 225!



Jonathan in 2021

9



**Jeanne Calment** lived for 122 years, making her the oldest human whose age has been validated. She rode her bike until she was 100!

6



**Giant tube worms** live deep in the ocean, often for hundreds of years. Some species, like *Escarpia laminata*, could live for 1,000 years or more!

It might look dead but it has a thin living strip that can grow needles!

