

SHARKS

Humans have always been fascinated with sharks. Scientists believe the first shark-like creatures appeared more than 400 million years ago. The sharks we see today are some of nature's best-designed creatures and some have remained unchanged for the past 30 million years.

At the top of the food chain, sharks are important to the oceanic ecosystems of our planet. While sharks are often portrayed as evil creatures, it is more accurate to think of them as interesting animals that have been designed to do a job and do that job well.

Humans pose the greatest threat to sharks, but the most common natural enemy of a shark is a bigger shark.

Sharks have been seen as deep as 3,600 m (12,000 ft) below the surface.

Where do sharks go on vacation? Finland.

Scientists are still unsure why sharks sometimes attack humans.

Some large sharks, such as the basking shark, megamouth shark and the whale shark, feed only on tiny plankton and shrimp.

NICK OF TIME

A "megalon" is a huge shark that lived millions of years ago. Scientists believe the megalodon grew to be more than 15 m (50 ft) in length. Sharks appeared more than 100 million years before the dinosaurs. The most common vertebrate fossils in the world are shark teeth.

How do you communicate with a shark? Drop it a line.

Sharks are more intelligent than scientists previously thought. It is now believed some shark species are as intelligent as some birds and mammals.

Some species of sharks, such as great whites and makos, are sometimes referred to as "warm-bodied" creatures because they are able to keep their bodies slightly warmer than the surrounding water.

For more information on sharks, go to your local library and check out these books:

"Inside and Outside Sharks" by Sandra Markle (Atheneum Books) or "The Encyclopedia of Sharks" by Steve and Jane Parker (Firefly Books).

A scientist who studies fish is called an "ichthyologist."

About 100 shark attacks occur every year, but a person is more likely to be killed by a bee, dog, pig or lightning than by a shark.



Some sharks continue to grow throughout their lives.

The short-fin mako shark is one of the fastest fish in the sea and is capable of swimming nearly 35 km/h (22 mph).

Humans kill more than 30 million sharks every year.

SHARK BITES

In addition to excellent senses of sight, hearing and smell, sharks can also locate their prey by detecting the tiny electrical fields emitted by muscle contractions.

Sharks have no bones. Their skeleton is made of an elastic material called cartilage.

The pectoral fins of a shark look and act like airplane wings.

Sharks don't have normal scales like other fish. Their skin is made up of thousands of tiny tooth-like scales called denticles.

Where do sharks do their shopping? At the mall.

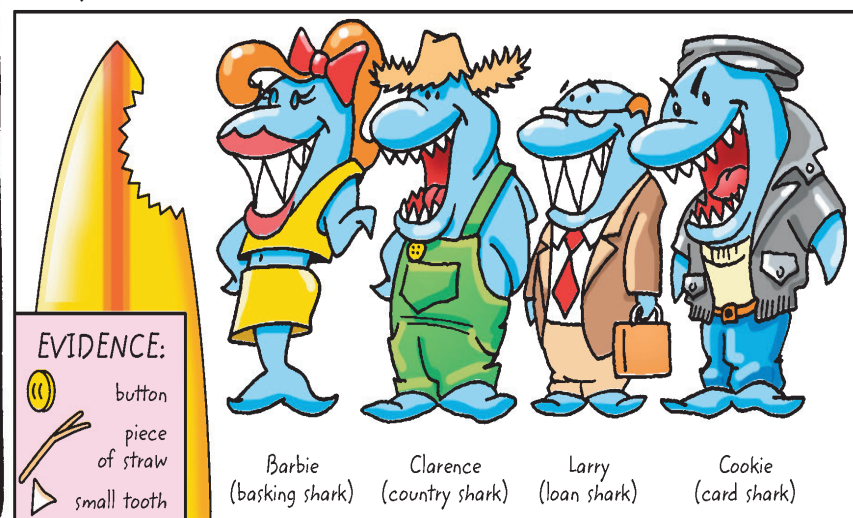
TOOTH FERRY

Sharks have rows of teeth that grow like they are on a conveyor belt. The front teeth become loose and eventually fall out. As these teeth fall out, the teeth behind them will move forward and take their place. Some sharks may grow as many as 50,000 teeth during their lifetime.

What does it cost to see a shark? An arm and a leg.

TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME

Can you tell which shark has bitten Junior's surfboard?



SHARK SOUP

The dwarf shark is the smallest shark. An adult is less than 18 cm (7 in) long.

The whale shark is the largest fish in the ocean. It can reach lengths of more than 15 m (50 ft).

Great white sharks are the largest predatory fish in the world, reaching lengths of more than 6 m (20 ft).

Bull sharks sometimes enter freshwater rivers and have been caught more than 1,600 km (1,000 mi) upstream from the ocean.

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WORD SEARCH

Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

CARTILAGE	SHARK	GILLS
PREDATOR	MAKO	BLUE
DENTICLE	TIGER	BULL
THRESHER	TEETH	BOB
BASKING	JAWS	FISH
DORSAL	PREY	FIN
A	C	E
S	P	A
N	S	P
A	N	S
P	A	N
A	R	E
R	T	E
P	I	L
A	L	P
S	A	P
A	G	E
S	E	E
B	O	B
A	N	T
S	A	S
E	E	A
R	Y	A
R	U	P
T	H	H
B	L	L
L	L	T
T	E	E
T	S	S

If you don't help stop bullying, who will?



Parents, teachers, school administrators, health care professionals, law enforcement officers—we all have a responsibility to prevent bullying.

To find out how you can help stop it, log on to www.StopBullyingNow.hrsa.gov