

# Sharks

There are more than 500 different species of shark, including the great white shark, grey reef shark, hammerhead shark and tiger shark.

## Where do they live?

Sharks can be found in every ocean.

The most shark attacks have been in Australia, South Africa, America and Brazil.

## What do they eat?

Some types of shark can be deadly, but only about 12 species have ever attacked humans.

What sharks eat depends on its species and where it is.

Most sharks are meat eaters so they like to eat fish and other sharks. Some larger sharks eat dolphins, sea lions and small whales.

Smaller sharks eat small aquatic life like clams and crabs.



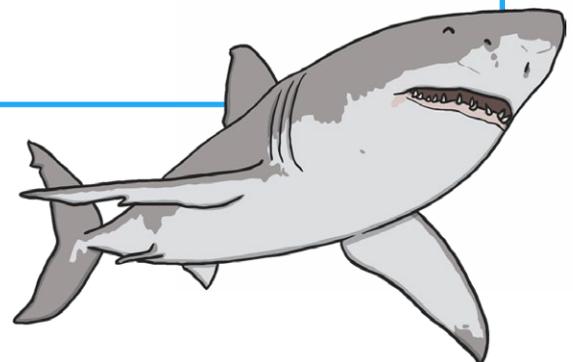
Grey Reef Shark



School of Hammerhead Sharks

## Big Facts

1. A group of sharks is called a shoal, school or shiver.
2. Sharks have a skeleton of cartilage but no bones!
3. A baby shark is called a pup.



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## What are they good at?

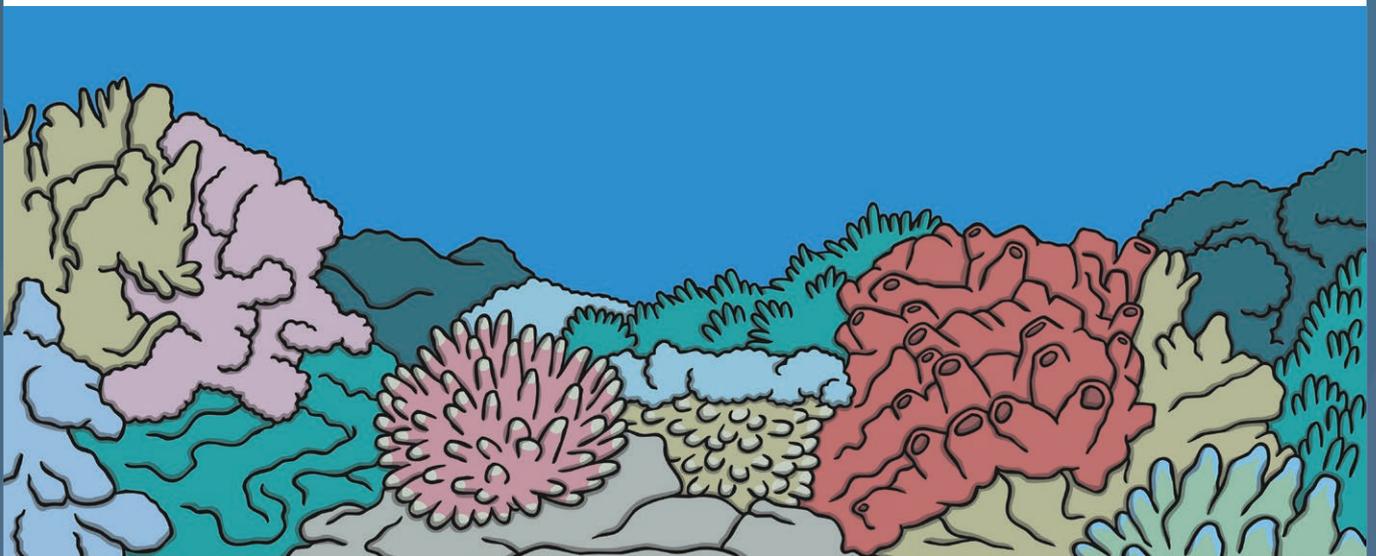
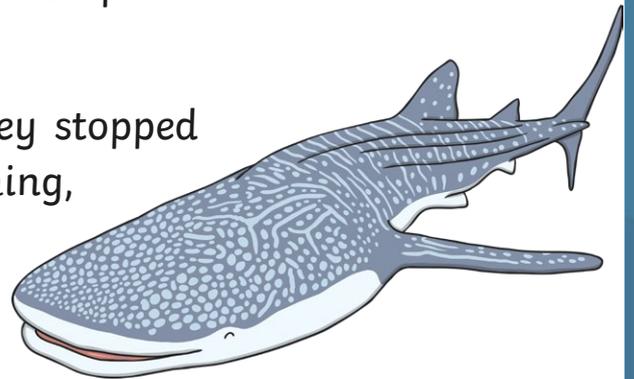
Sharks can smell a single drop of blood in the water from 400 metres away.

They can hear fish moving from around 500 metres away.

Great white sharks can swim up to 18mph!

## Amazing Fact!

Most shark species would die if they stopped moving. As long as they keep swimming, water keeps moving over their gills, which keeps them alive.



# Questions about Sharks

1. Name two types of shark.

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2. What can a group of sharks be called?

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3. What don't sharks have in their bodies?

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4. What is a baby shark called?

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5. Which countries have had the most shark attacks?

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6. How many species of shark have ever attacked humans?

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7. Name something a meat eating shark eats.

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8. How fast can great white sharks swim?

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# Questions about Sharks Answers

1. Name two types of shark.

**There are lots of different sharks like great white shark, grey reef shark, hammerhead shark and tiger shark. (Accept any two)**

2. What can a group of sharks be called?

**A group of sharks is called a shoal, school or shiver.**

3. What don't sharks have in their bodies?

**Sharks have no bones - they have a skeleton of cartilage.**

4. What is a baby shark called?

**A baby shark is called a pup.**

5. Where do most shark attacks happen?

**Most shark attacks happen in Australia, South Africa, America and Brazil.**

6. How many species of shark have ever attacked humans?

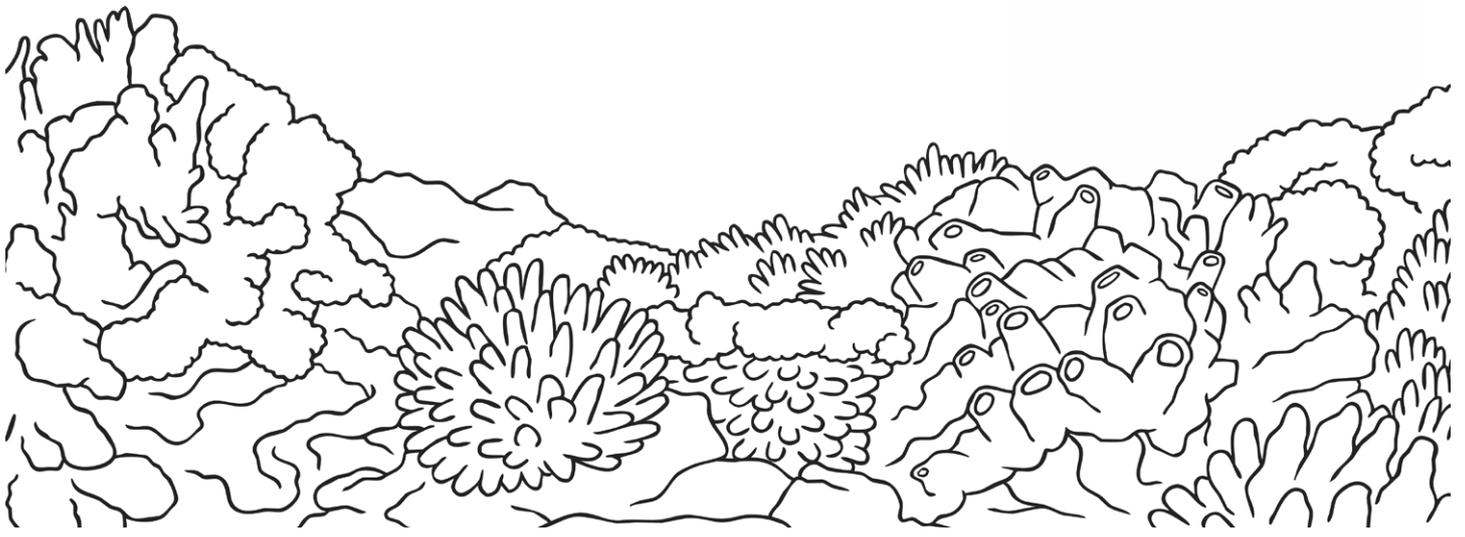
**Only about 12 species have ever attacked humans.**

7. Name something a larger shark eats.

**Larger sharks eat other sharks, dolphins, sea lions and small whales. (Accept any one)**

8. How fast can great white sharks swim?

**Great white sharks can swim up to 18mph!**



# Sharks

There are more than 500 different species of shark, including the great white shark, grey reef shark, hammerhead shark, tiger shark, blue shark, bull shark and mako shark. Sharks have five to seven gill slits on the sides of their head.

## Where do they live?

Sharks can be found in every ocean in the world. Most sharks don't live in freshwater but some, like the river shark and the bull shark, can live in both freshwater and seawater. Most shark attacks happen in Australia, South Africa, America and Brazil.



Grey Reef Shark



School of Hammerhead Sharks

## Big Facts

1. A group of sharks is called a shoal, school or shiver.
2. Sharks do not have any bones in their bodies! They have a skeleton of cartilage instead.
3. One of the smallest sharks is the dwarf lantern shark, which is usually only around 17cm in length.
4. The largest fish in the world is the whale shark, which can measure up to a massive 14 metres long!

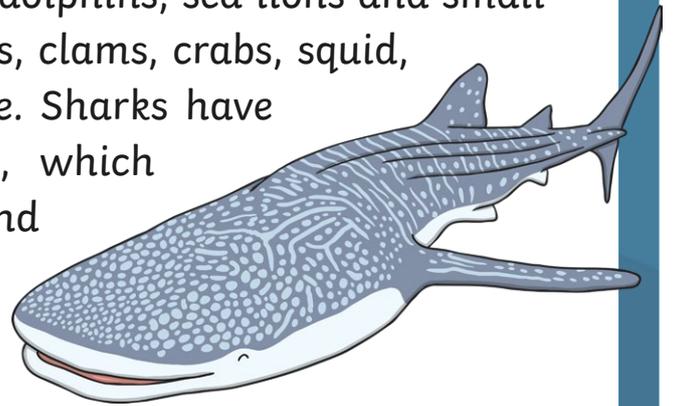
## What do they eat?

Some types of shark can be deadly, but only about 12 species have ever been involved in human attacks. Humans are actually very harmful to sharks as they illegally hunt them for their meat,

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organs and skin. This has led to the great white shark becoming an endangered species.

A shark's feeding depends on its species and where it lives. Most sharks are meat eaters so they often like to eat fish and other sharks, and some larger sharks eat dolphins, sea lions and small whales. Smaller sharks eat molluscs, clams, crabs, squid, lobster and other small aquatic life. Sharks have many rows of replacement teeth, which grow on the inside of their jaws and move forward when needed - a bit like a conveyor belt!

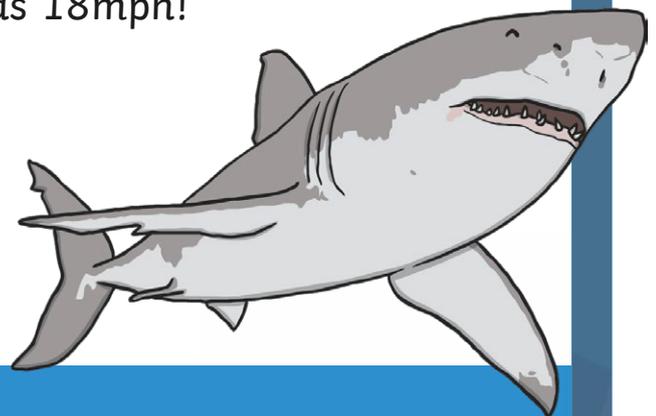


### **What are they good at?**

A shark's sense of smell is so good that they can smell a single drop of blood in the water from 400 metres away. Their hearing is also amazing because they can hear fish moving from around 500 metres away! A baby shark is called a pup. Pups are born already able to take care of themselves. They have to swim away fast as some mothers try to eat their own pups and their own siblings can even attack them! Great white sharks can swim as fast as 18mph!

### **Amazing Fact!**

Most shark species would die if they stopped moving. As long as they keep swimming, water keeps moving over their gills, which keeps them alive.



# Questions about Sharks

1. How many different types of shark are there?

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2. Name six species of shark.

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3. How small is the smallest shark?

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4. Which countries have had the most shark attacks?

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5. Do all species of shark attack humans?

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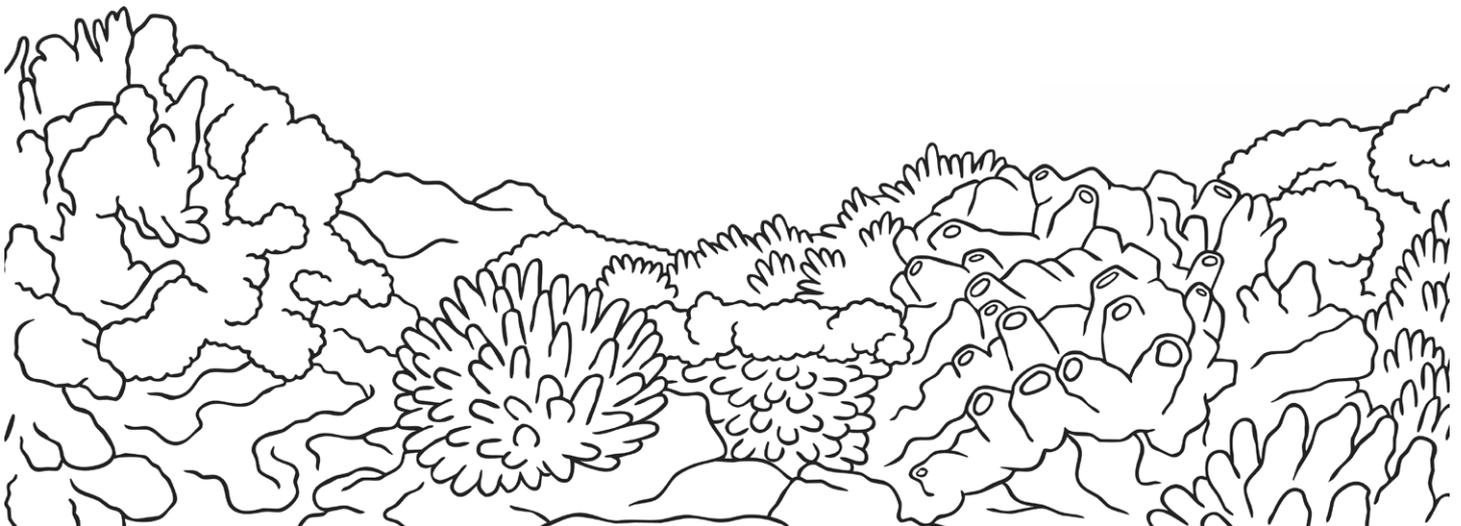
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6. Why have some humans hunted sharks and what has this led to?

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7. What is special about sharks' teeth?

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8. Describe how good a shark's smell and hearing are.

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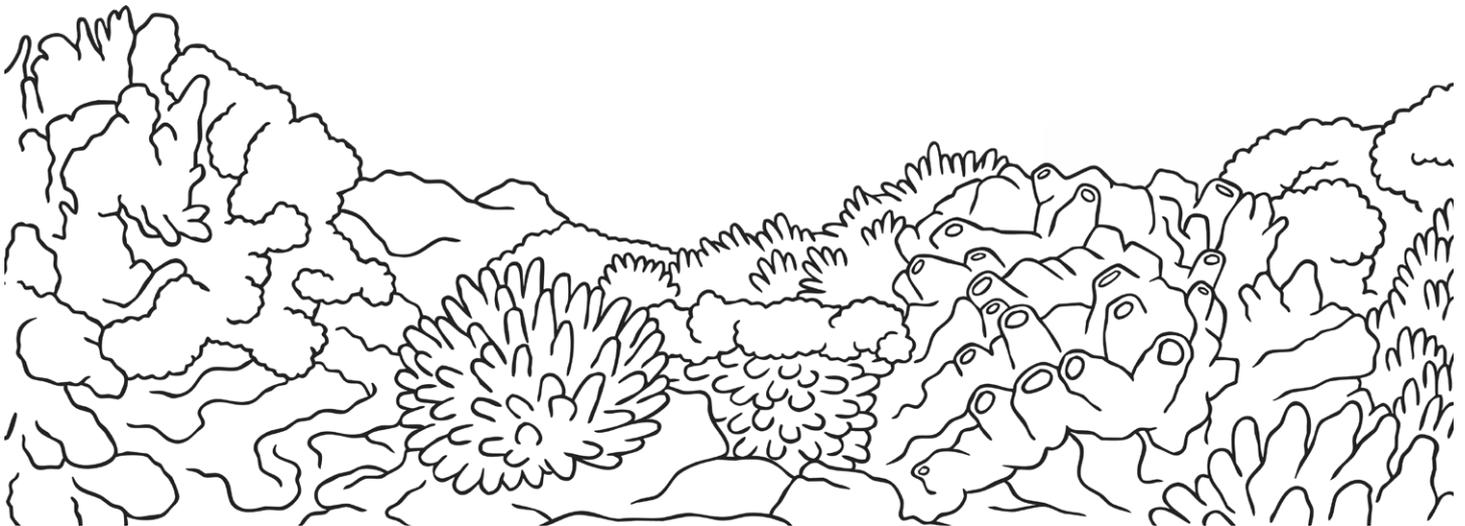
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9. What are baby sharks able to do straight away and why?

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# Questions about Sharks Answers

1. How many different types of shark are there?

**There are more than 500 different species of shark.**

2. Name six species of shark.

**Species of shark include great white shark, grey reef shark, hammerhead shark, tiger shark, blue shark, bull shark and mako shark. (Accept any six)**

3. How small is the smallest shark?

**One of the smallest sharks is the dwarf lantern shark, which is usually only around 17cm in length.**

4. Where do most shark attacks happen?

**Most shark attacks happen in Australia, South Africa, America and Brazil.**

5. Do all species of shark attack humans?

**No - some types of shark can be deadly, but only about 12 species have ever been involved in human attacks.**

6. Why do some humans hunt sharks and what has this led to?

**Humans are very harmful to sharks as they illegally hunt them for their meat, organs and skin. This has led to the great white shark becoming an endangered species.**

7. What is special about sharks' teeth?

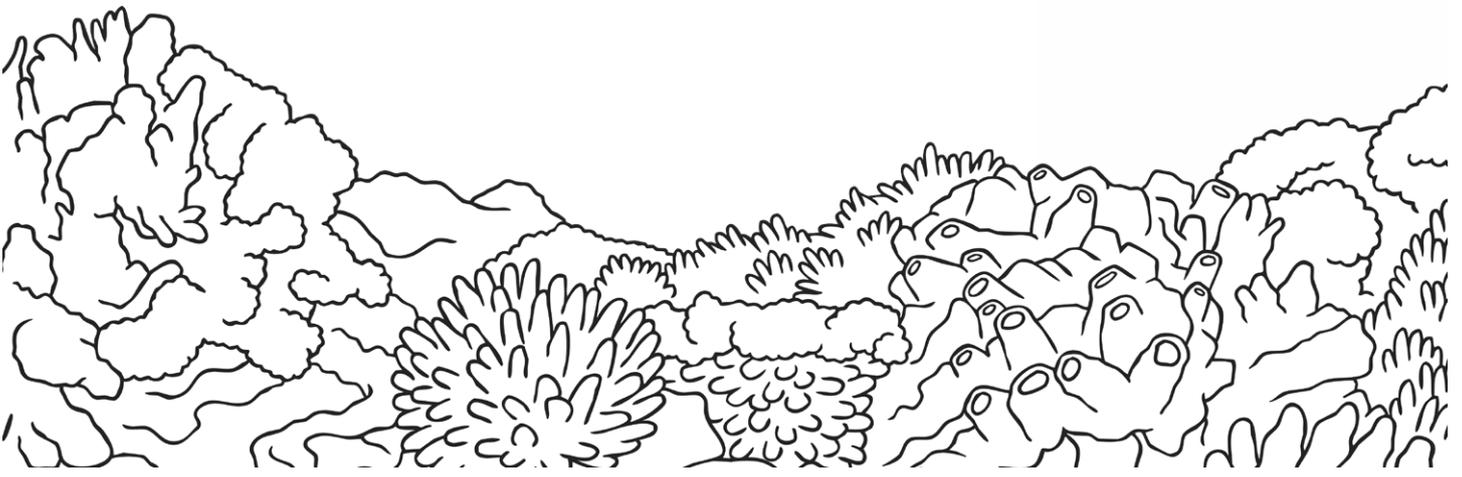
**Sharks have many rows of replacement teeth, which grow on the inside of their jaws and move forward when needed - a bit like a conveyor belt!**

8. Describe how good a shark's senses of smell and hearing are.

**A shark's sense of smell is so good that they can smell a single drop of blood in the water from 400 metres away. Their hearing is so amazing that they can hear fish moving from around 500 metres away!**

9. What are baby sharks able to do straight away and why?

**A baby shark is called a pup. Pups are born already able to take care of themselves. They have to swim away fast as some mothers try to eat their own pups and their own siblings can even attack them!**



# Sharks

There are more than 500 different species of shark, including the great white shark, grey reef shark, hammerhead shark, tiger shark, blue shark, bull shark and mako shark. Sharks have five to seven gill slits on the sides of their head and pectoral fins that are not attached to their head. Sharks have a layer of dermal denticles all over them that protects their skin from parasites and damage.

## Where do they live?

Sharks can be found in every ocean in the world, but are more common in seas with a depth of more than 2,000 metres. Most sharks don't live in freshwater, but there are a few exceptions, like the river shark and the bull shark, who can live in both freshwater and seawater. Most shark attacks happen in Australia, South Africa, America and Brazil.



Grey Reef Shark



School of Hammerhead Sharks

## Big Facts

1. A group of sharks is called a shoal, school or shiver.
2. Sharks do not have any bones in their bodies! They have a skeleton of cartilage instead, which is the same tough, flexible tissue our human ears and noses are made up of.
3. One of the smallest sharks is the dwarf lantern shark, which is usually only around 17cm in length.
4. The largest fish in the world is the whale shark, which can measure up to a massive 14 metres long!

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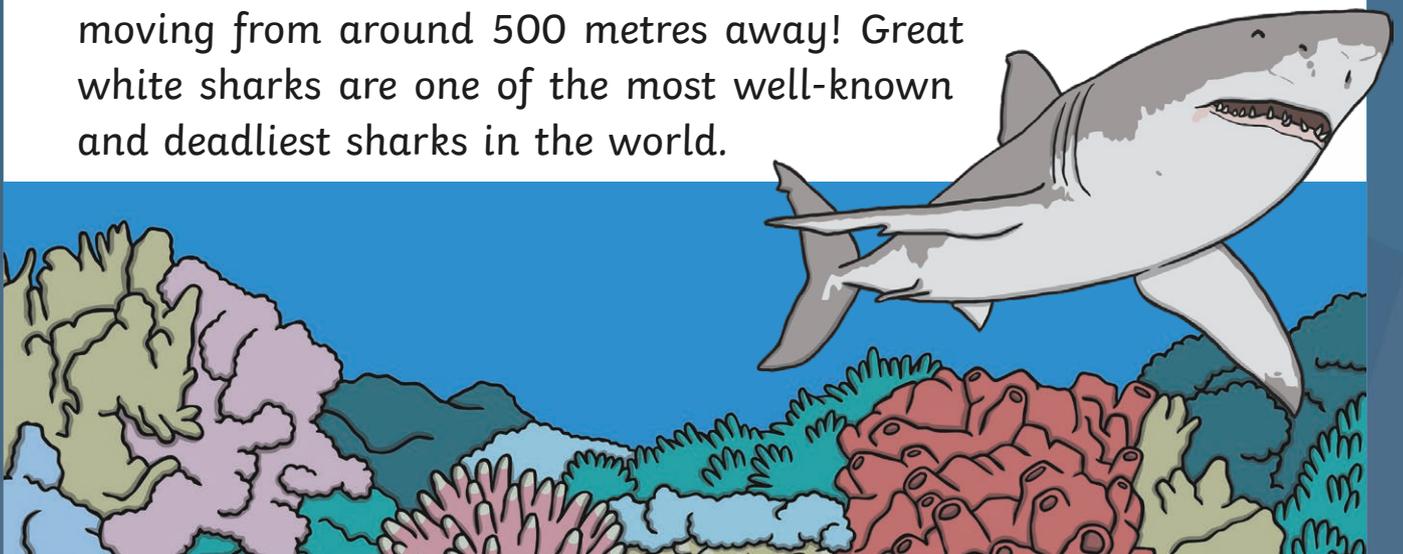
## What do they eat?

Although some types of shark can be deadly, only about 12 species have ever been involved in human attacks. Actually it is humans that can be very harmful to sharks as they often illegally hunt them for their meat, organs and skin. This has led to overfishing and means that the great white shark is now an endangered species.

A shark's feeding depends on its species and location. Most sharks are carnivores so they like to eat fish and even other sharks. Some large sharks eat dolphins, sea lions and small whales. Smaller sharks eat molluscs, clams, crabs, squid, lobster and other small aquatic life. Sharks have many rows of replacement teeth, which grow on the inside of their jaws and move forward when needed - they are a bit like a conveyor belt! Great white sharks have 300 sharp triangular teeth and are warm-blooded.

## What are they good at?

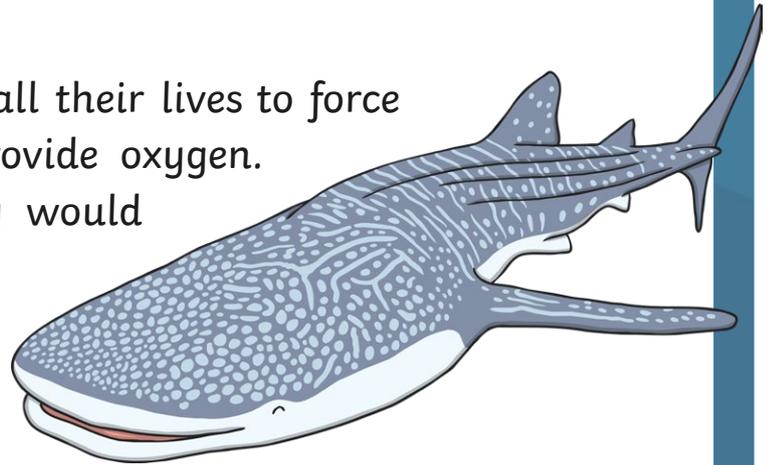
Sharks have incredible senses. Unlike humans, their nostrils are only used for smelling and not breathing. Their sense of smell is so good that they can smell a single drop of blood in the water from up to 400 metres away from them. A shark's hearing is also fairly amazing as they can hear fish moving from around 500 metres away! Great white sharks are one of the most well-known and deadliest sharks in the world.



These predators can swim as fast as 18mph! A baby shark is called a pup. Some types of shark lay eggs on the ocean floor and some give birth to live pups in the ocean. Pups are born already able to take care of themselves. They often have to swim away fast as some mothers try to eat their own pups, or sometimes their own siblings can even attack them!

### **Amazing Fact!**

Some sharks keep swimming all their lives to force water over their gills and provide oxygen. If they stopped moving, they would suffocate and die.



# Questions about Sharks

1. What kind of gills, fins and skin do sharks have?

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2. Do sharks have bones in their bodies? If not, what do they have instead?

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3. How small is the smallest shark and how big is the biggest shark?

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4. What kind of water do sharks live in?

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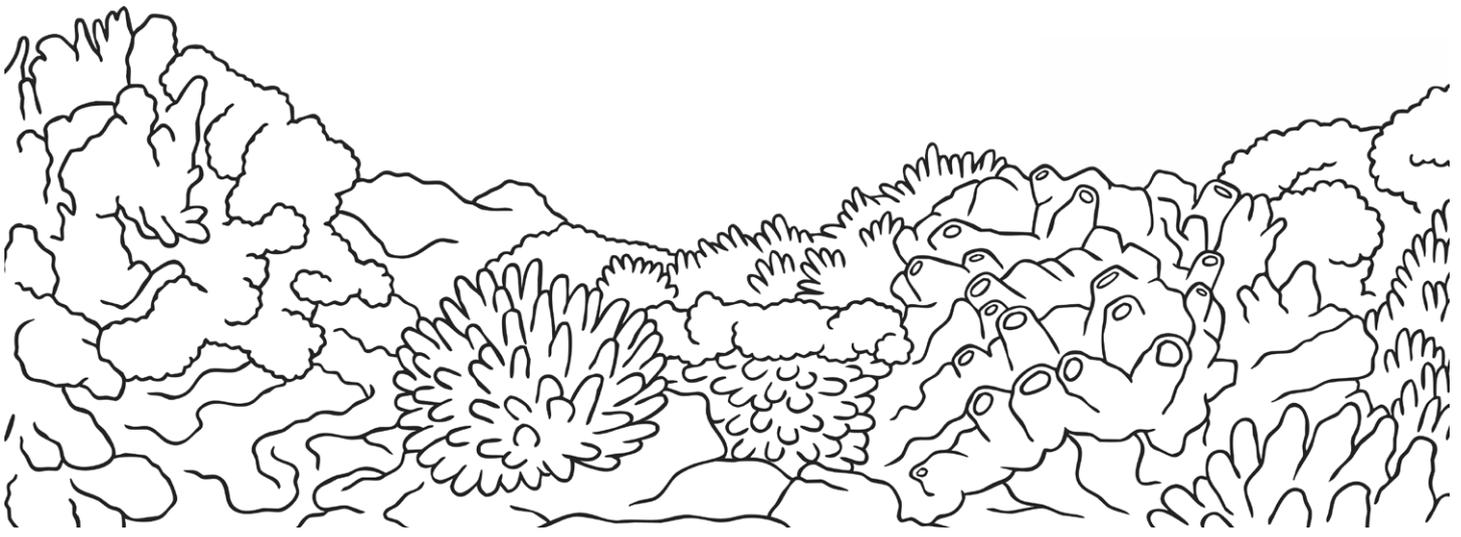
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5. Why do some sharks have to move all the time and what does this do?

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6. What do meat eating and non meat eating sharks eat?

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7. What is so useful about sharks' teeth and what are the great white shark's teeth like?

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8. Explain three skills some sharks have.

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9. Who are sharks' biggest predators?

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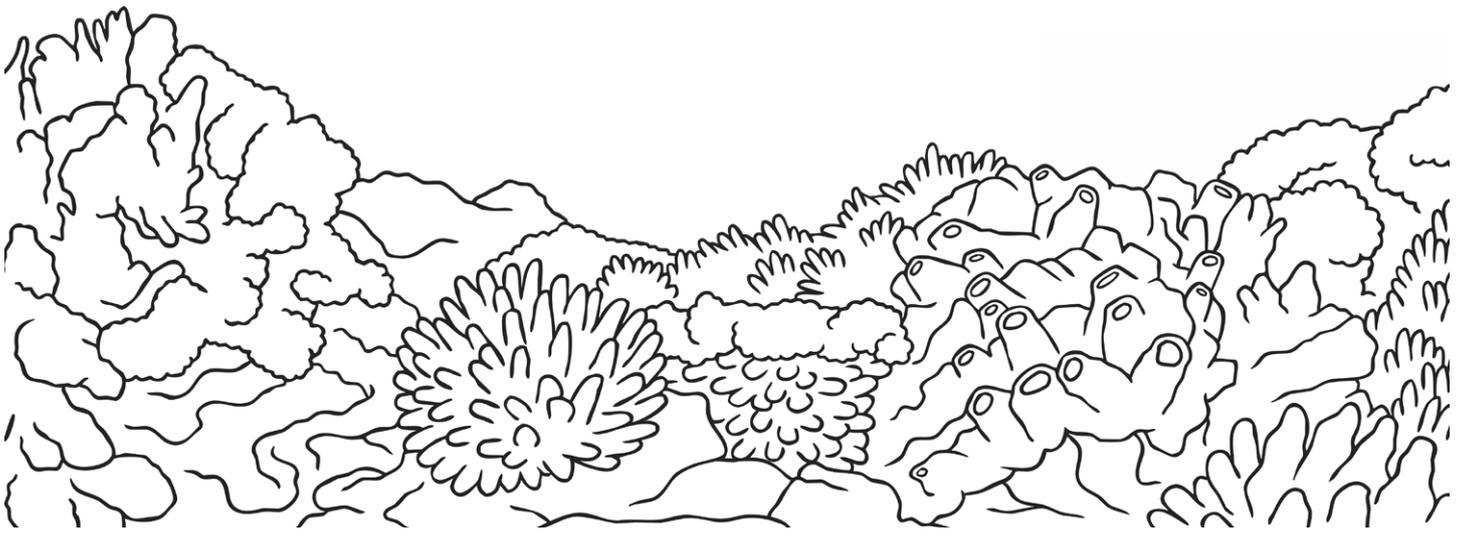
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10. Write your own question to ask a friend about sharks that could be answered by reading this fact file.

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# Questions about Sharks Answers

1. What kind of gills, fins and skin do sharks have?

**Sharks have five to seven gill slits on the sides of their head and pectoral fins that are not attached to their head. Sharks have a layer of dermal denticles all over them that protects their skin from parasites and damage.**

2. Do sharks have bones in their bodies? If not, what do they have instead?

**Sharks do not have any bones in their bodies! They have a skeleton of cartilage instead, which is the same tough, flexible tissue our human ears and noses are made up of.**

3. How small is the smallest shark and how big is the biggest shark?

**One of the smallest sharks is the dwarf lantern shark, which is usually only around 17cm in length. The largest fish in the world is the whale shark, which can measure up to a massive 14 metres long!**

4. What kind of water do sharks live in?

**Sharks can be found in every ocean in the world, but are more common in seas with a depth of more than 2,000 metres. Most sharks don't live in freshwater, but there are a few exceptions, like the river shark and the bull shark, who can live in both freshwater and seawater.**

5. Why do some sharks have to move all the time and what does this do?

**Some sharks keep swimming all their lives to force water over their gills and provide oxygen. If they stopped moving, they would suffocate and die.**

6. What do sharks eat?

**Most sharks are carnivores so they like to eat fish and even other sharks. Some large sharks eat dolphins, sea lions and small whales. Smaller sharks eat molluscs, clams, crabs, squid, lobster and other small aquatic life.**

7. What is so useful about sharks' teeth and what are a great white shark's teeth like?

**Sharks have many rows of replacement teeth, which grow on the inside of their jaws and move forward when needed – they are a bit like a conveyor belt! Great white sharks have 300 sharp triangular teeth.**

8. Explain three amazing skills that some sharks have.

**Answers could include: Their sense of smell is so good that they can smell a single drop of blood in the water from up to 400 metres away from them; a shark's hearing is also fairly amazing as they can hear fish moving from around 500 metres away; great white sharks can swim as fast as 18mph or that some sharks keep swimming all their lives.**

9. Who are sharks' biggest predators?

**Humans can be very harmful to sharks as they often illegally hunt them for their meat, organs and skin. This has led to overfishing and means that the great white shark is now an endangered species.**

10. Write your own question to ask a friend about sharks that could be answered by reading this fact file.

**Answers will vary, accept any reasonable question that can be answered using information from this fact file, e.g. What are baby sharks called?**