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Sharks

Sharks are some of the most feared sea animals. How much do you know about sharks—a classification of fish that includes more than 400 species! Set off on a webquest to test your knowledge.

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Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the “Search” tool to find key words. Since this activity is about sharks, you can start by searching the key word “Shark.” Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.



1. Scientists classify more than _____ species of fish as sharks.
2. Sharks are most common in what type of body of water?
 - a. Cold oceans
 - b. Warm seas
 - c. Temperate rivers
 - d. Icy lakes
3. Most species of sharks have a _____ body, shaped somewhat like a _____ . This streamlined shape helps sharks _____ .
4. What are placoid scales?
5. Regarding swim bladders, how do sharks differ from most fish?
6. Why must sharks swim constantly?
7. _____ banned fishing for great white sharks or selling their jaws or other body parts.
8. The skeleton of a shark is made of a tough, elastic substance called _____ .
9. Bull sharks have been captured in the _____ in Brazil, in the _____ in India, and in the _____ in the United States.
10. Whale sharks eat only _____ and _____ .

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True or False

If the statement about sharks is correct, write "True." If the statement is not correct, write "False" and correct the statement in the space below.

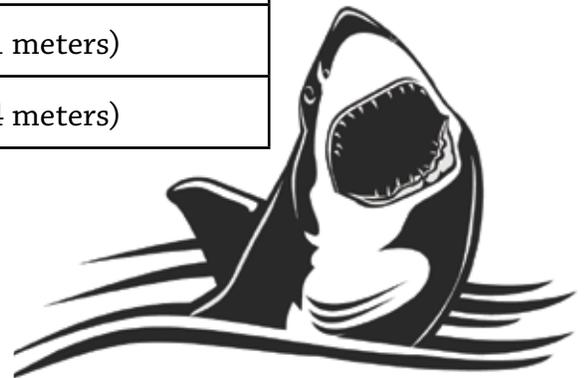
- _____ 11. Most sharks eat their prey whole.
- _____ 12. Sharks have more young at a time than most fish do.
- _____ 13. Dried sharkskin, called shagreen, was once used as makeup.
- _____ 14. Some species of sharks can go for days or weeks without feeding.
- _____ 15. Dried shark fins are a key ingredient in one Chinese soup.
- _____ 16. All sharks are herbivores (plant-eaters).
- _____ 17. Dogfish sharks are used in preparing the popular English dish Yorkshire pudding.

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Matching

Match the correct shark in Column A with the correct length in Column B. (Questions 18-22)

Column A	Column B
Basking	13 feet (4 meters)
Great white	20 feet (6.1 meters)
Hammerhead	14 feet (4.3 meters)
Mako	30 feet (9.1 meters)
Nurse	21 feet (6.4 meters)



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Find It!

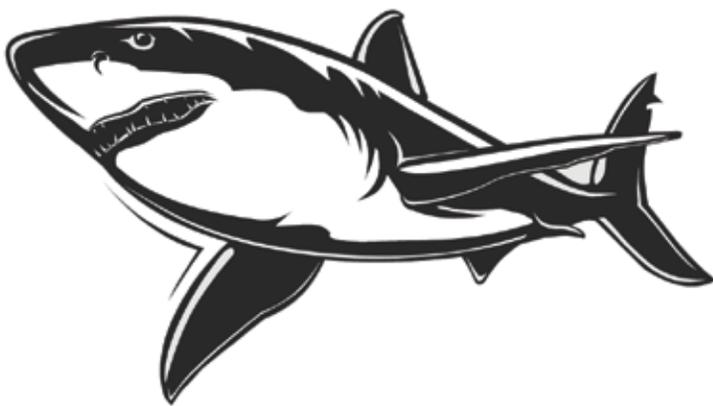
23. When does a young bull shark typically move out to the ocean? (Hint: For this question, see the “Bull shark” article.)
24. Why do scientists know little about whale sharks? (Hint: For this question, see the “Whale shark” article.)
25. How do scientists calculate the size of the megalodon? (Hint: For this question, see the “Megalodon” article.)
26. Hammerhead sharks range in size from _____ to _____ . (Hint: For this question, see the “Hammerhead shark” article.)
27. Why is a hammerhead shark’s flat head necessary for survival? (Hint: For this question, see the “Hammerhead shark” article.)
28. How do gill rakers help a basking shark eat? (Hint: For this question, see the “Basking shark” article.)
29. Which animals prey on leopard sharks? (Hint: For this question, see the “Leopard shark” article.)
30. How does a blue shark’s color keep it safe from predators? (Hint: For this question, see the “Blue shark” article.)



Shark or Whale?

Determine which feature is characteristic of a shark and which is characteristic of a whale. Put a checkmark in the box corresponding with the animal. (Questions 31-38) (Note: There will be only one check for each feature. Use the "Shark" and "Whale" articles to fill in this chart.)

Feature	Shark	Whale
A mammal		
A fish		
Skeleton made of cartilage		
Skeleton made of bone		
Breathes by means of gills		
Breathes by means of lungs		
Feeds milks to offspring		
Does not feed milk to offspring		



Read more about sharks by visiting World Book's eBook collection:

Hammerheads and Other Sharks. Chicago: World Book, 2014. Animals of the World. *World eBook* Web. 22 Feb. 2019.
<<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instit/catalog/urn:ISBN:978-0-7166-2938-2/detail.do>>.

Teacher Page

Answers

1. Scientists classify more than 400 species of fish as sharks.
2. Sharks are most common in (b.) warm seas.
3. Most species of sharks have a rounded body, shaped somewhat like a torpedo. This streamlined shape helps sharks swim.
4. Placoid scales are small, toothlike scales that cover a shark's body.
5. Unlike most fish, sharks do not have a swim bladder.
6. Sharks must swim constantly, so they do not sink.
7. South Africa banned fishing for great white sharks or selling their jaws or other body parts.
8. The skeleton of a shark is made of a tough, elastic substance called cartilage.
9. Bull sharks have been captured in the Amazon River in Brazil, in the Ganges River in India, and in the Mississippi River in the United States.
10. Whale sharks eat only plankton and small fish.
11. True.
12. False. Sharks have fewer young at a time than most fish do.
13. False. Dried sharkskin, called shagreen, was once used as sandpaper.
14. True.
15. True.
16. False. All sharks are carnivores (meat-eaters).
17. False. Dogfish sharks are used in preparing the popular English dish fish and chips.
18. A basking shark may measure over 30 feet (9.1 meters) long.
19. A great white shark may measure up to 21 feet (6.4 meters) long.
20. A hammerhead shark may measure up to 20 feet (6.1) meters long.
21. A mako shark may measure up to 13 feet (4 meters).
22. A nurse shark may measure up to 14 feet (4.3 meters) long.
23. A young bull shark typically moves to the ocean after about 2 to 3 years old.
24. Scientists know little about whale sharks, because they are so rare.

25. Scientists calculate the size of a megalodon by comparing the size of its teeth with those of living sharks.
26. Hammerhead sharks range in size from 5 feet (1.5 meters) to 20 feet (6.1 meters).
27. A hammerhead shark's flat head improves the animal's ability to swim and provides extra space for sensing organs that help the shark find food.
28. Gill rakers act as filters that strain the water for tiny, drifting ocean life called plankton.
29. Killer whales and dolphins prey on leopard sharks.
30. A blue shark's colors help the shark blend in with its surroundings.
- 31.-38.

Feature	Shark	Whale
A mammal		X
A fish	X	
Skeleton made of cartilage	X	
Skeleton made of bone		X
Breathes by means of gills	X	
Breathes by means of lungs		X
Feeds milks to offspring		X
Does not feed milk to offspring	X	