

# Sharks!

Sophie Everett



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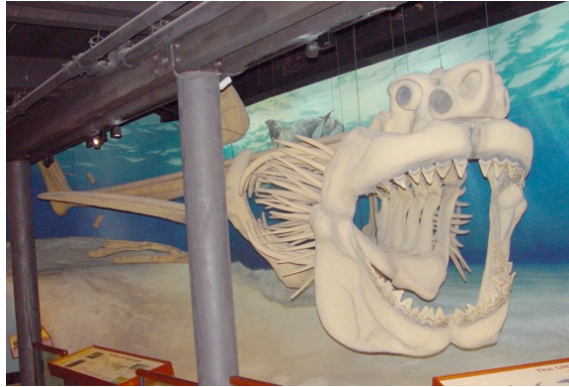
A Ragged-Tooth Shark

## Chapter 1

### WHAT IS A SHARK?

There are over 300 species of sharks worldwide.

Sharks first appeared over 455 million years ago!



Remake of a  
Megalodon skeleton

The shark Megalodon is thought to be the largest shark. They had teeth 6.5 inches long!

Megalodon died out 1.6 million years ago.

**STOP AND THINK**  
How soon after the  
appearance of sharks did  
Megalodon disappear?

Sharks are boneless fish. Their skeletons are made of **cartilage** which makes them very flexible.

Sharks grow and lose teeth all the time. They are always teething.

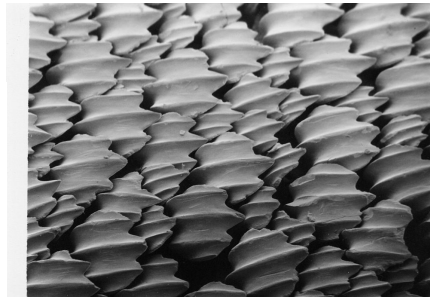


Tiger Shark teeth

Instead of scales, sharks are covered in **denticles**.

The denticles help sharks move very quickly through the water.

Denticles underneath a microscope



## Chapter 2

### SHARK SENSES

Sharks have many senses that help them track down their prey.

A shark's sense of smell is very highly focused. A shark can use this sense to locate bleeding prey.

Sharks have two senses that humans do not.

The first is the **Ampullae of Lorenzini**, which are located on a shark's head.

The Ampullae allow sharks to sense electricity made by other animals.

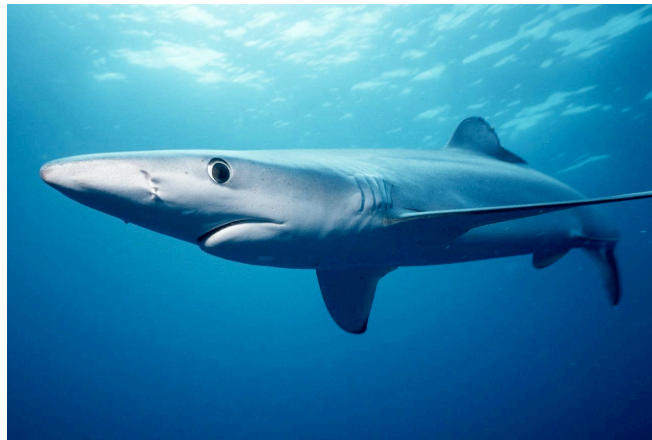


Ampullae of Lorenzini pores in a Tiger Shark snout

The other sense sharks have that humans do not is called a **lateral line**.

Lateral lines allow sharks to feel vibrations of everything moving in the water.

The lateral line system runs down the shark's entire body.



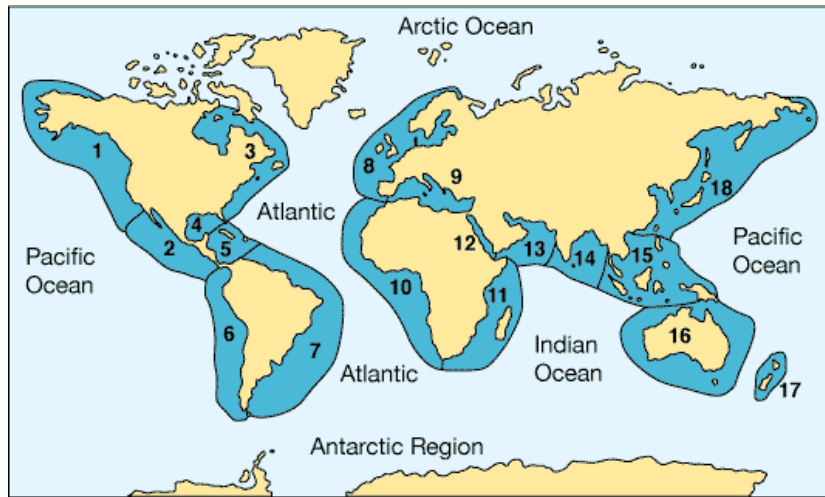
A Blue Shark

**STOP AND THINK**

What are two senses sharks  
have that humans do not?  
What do sharks use these  
senses for?

## Chapter 3

### WHERE DO SHARKS LIVE?



Location of shark species is dark blue.

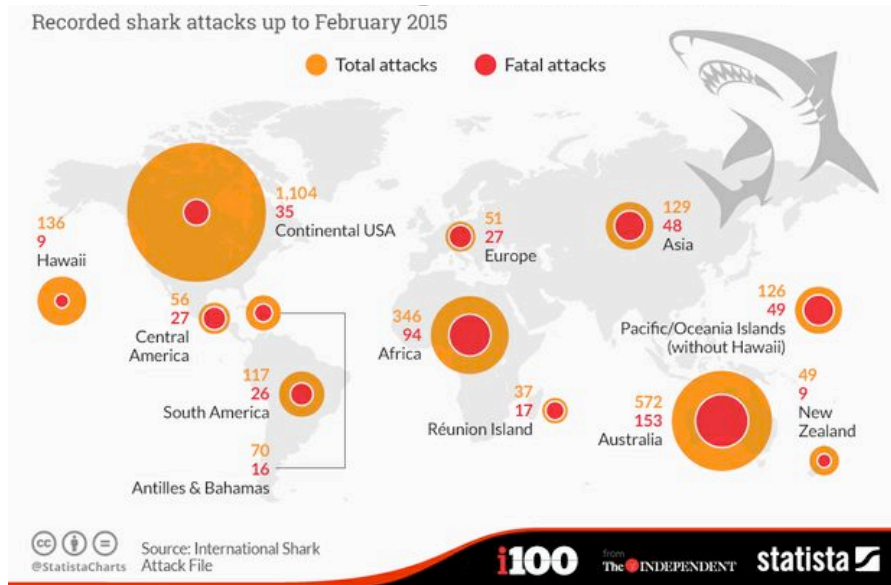
Sharks are found almost everywhere on Earth.

Almost all sharks are **saltwater** species.

Sharks live wherever there is a lot of their prey.

Sharks either live in the open water or stay on the bottom of the ocean.

## Deadliest Places For Shark Attacks



Sharks are most common in warmer waters right off of continents.

The most common places for swimmers to be attacked by sharks are often crowded beaches.

The Bull Shark is one of very few sharks that can go in **fresh water**. Bull Sharks can attack swimmers in rivers away from oceans.

STOP AND THINK  
Why do swimmers get attacked at beaches?



## Chapter 4

### WHAT DO SHARKS EAT?

Different sharks eat different prey.

Whale Sharks and Basking Sharks eat **plankton**.



A Basking Shark Eating

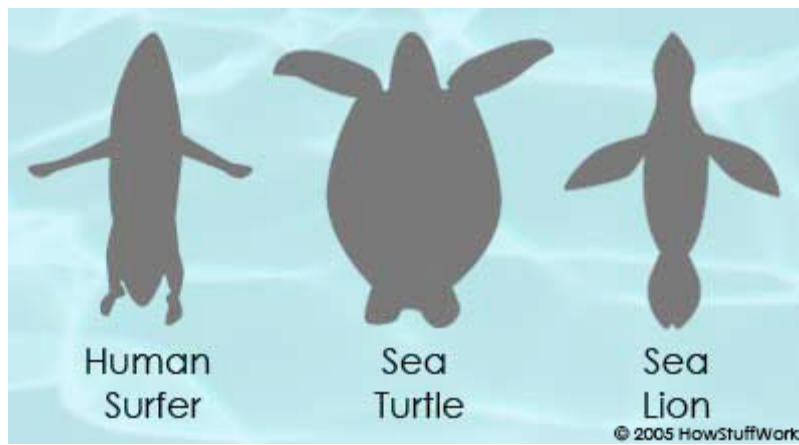
Other sharks eat fish, shrimp, squid, turtles, or penguins.

Different kinds of sharks have different kinds of teeth because they all eat different food.

The Great White Shark eats seals.



It is thought that Great White attacks on humans happen because the shark thinks the person is a seal!



Sharks get confused

## Chapter 5

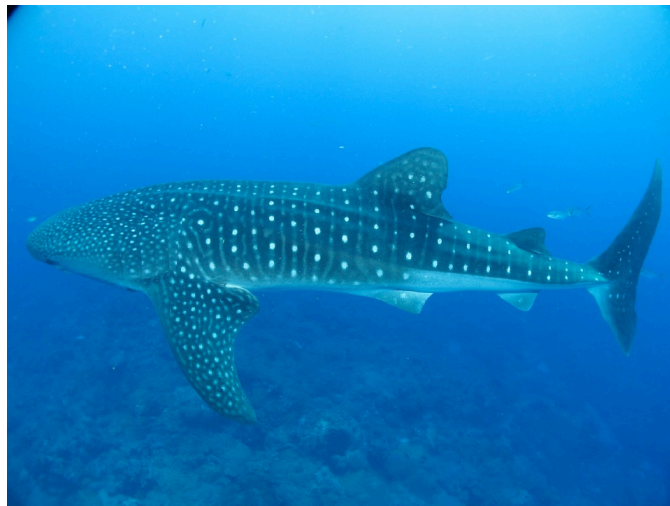
### DIFFERENT KINDS OF SHARKS

There are many different kinds of sharks.

#### WHALE SHARK

The Whale Shark is the biggest shark in the ocean.

It can be 65 feet long!



It has rows of teeth but it only eats very small plankton.

## GREAT WHITE SHARK

The Great White Shark is probably the most famous shark because of the movie *JAWS*.

Great White Sharks grow up to 23-ft long.

The Great White is the shark most people think of when they hear the word, “shark!”



The Great White shark is one of the three kinds of sharks that are considered the most dangerous.

## BULL SHARK

The Bull Shark is another shark considered very dangerous.

The Bull Shark can be found in fresh water, such as rivers or lakes. It can live very close to humans and has a high attack record.



Bull Sharks eat other sharks, including little Bull Sharks.

Bull Sharks can grow to around 10-ft long.

## TIGER SHARK

The Tiger Shark is the third most dangerous shark.

Tiger Sharks will eat anything! This is what makes them dangerous to humans.

Tiger Sharks have eaten: other tiger sharks, car license plates, dogs, turtles, fish, a chicken coop, and deer antlers.



This has given them the nickname, “the garbage can of the sea.”

Tiger Sharks have stripes that fade away when they become adults.

Tiger Sharks can grow over 20-ft long.

## Ragged-Tooth Shark

Ragged-Tooth Sharks live up to their name! They have very jagged teeth.



Although they may look scary, Ragged Tooth Sharks are fairly calm.

They have never killed a human and only attack when bothered.

This shark is also known as the Grey Nurse or Sand Tiger Shark.

Ragged-Tooth sharks can hang in the water by gulping air which is then held in its stomach.

## SHARK QUIZ

1. Which shark is known as the Sand Tiger?
2. Which shark can be 65 ft long?
3. Which shark can be found in fresh water?
4. Which shark inspired the movie, *JAWS*?
5. What shark is known as “the garbage can of the ocean?”

### BONUS!

6. What was the largest shark ever?

1. Ragged-Tooth Shark 2. Whale Shark 3. Bull Shark 4. Great White Shark 5. Tiger Shark. 6. Megaladon



# Glossary

Denticles: Tiny scales embedded in shark skin.

Cartilage: Rubbery material. Human noses and ears are made of cartilage.

Ampullae of Lorenzini: Tiny pores that allow sharks to sense electricity from other animals.

Lateral Line: A series of organs that run down the sides of a shark's body. These organs sense vibrations in the water.

Saltwater: Water with salt; ocean water.

Freshwater: Water without salt, water found in lakes or rivers, not ocean water.

Plankton: Millions of small animals that float in the ocean.

# Works Referenced

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# Common Core State Standards

2.S.E.2.2 – Discuss how animals are suited to live in different habitats.

RI.2.2- Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.

RI.2.5- Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.

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