

Shark Infested Facts



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What Are Sharks?

Sharks are fish. They live in the water but, unlike other fish, their skeletons are made of cartilage. This means that they can swim quicker and easier because it allows them to be more flexible. Cartilage is a tough, rubbery material found also in rays and skates.

Going Back in Time...

There are more than 350 varieties of shark: from the enormous whale shark, which can grow as large as a bus, to the terrifying great white shark, known for eating large mammals with its huge, jagged teeth. Fossils indicate that sharks have been around for more than 420 million years.

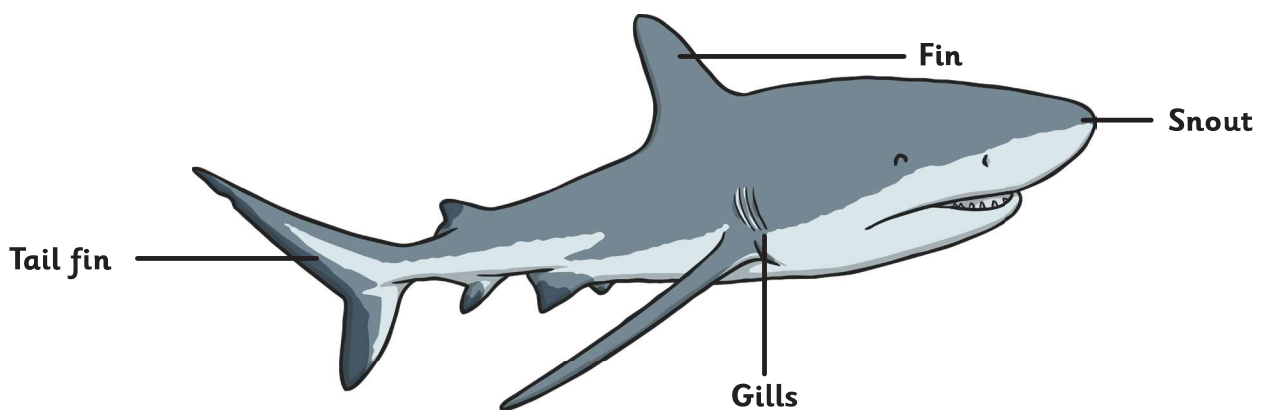


Terrifying Teeth

Sharks' teeth are their weapons. They are constantly replaced throughout their lives. This is good news because they often eat violently and can break teeth whilst doing so. New teeth reside in a groove just inside their mouths and move forward – like conveyor belts – in the shark's skin. A shark's teeth vary depending on the shark species: different sharks need teeth suited to the prey that they catch. For example, a hornshark has small, cone-shaped teeth for cracking and grinding shells. In its lifetime a shark can need up to 30,000 teeth. As a result, many people enjoy collecting different types of shark teeth.

A Shark's Body

Part of the body	Function	How Many	Fun Fact
Tail fin	This helps the shark to swim quickly.	1	The correct name for the tail fin is the caudal fin.
Fins	These help the shark to turn, swim up or down and stop it rolling from side to side.	Usually 6	A dogfish shark has sharp spines in its fins.
Snout	A shark's nose; it has tiny holes in it that help the shark to find fish swimming nearby.	1	Sawsharks have very long snouts.
Gills	Slits on a shark's body that allow it to breathe.	Usually 5-7	A nurse shark can not only suck water via gills but also into holes behind its eyes.



Fun Facts

Fun fact: A set of bongo drums was once found in a tiger shark's stomach.

Fun fact: Sharks' teeth can grow up to 20 times as big as a human tooth.

Fun fact: Sharks existed for 2 million years before the dinosaurs.

Fun fact: Baby sharks are called pups and are born with a full set of teeth.