

# Shark Fact File

Sharks are a type of fish but instead of having bones, their skeleton is made of cartilage. This is what your ears and the tip of your nose are made from. There are more than 500 different species of shark, including the great white shark, grey reef shark, hammerhead shark and tiger shark. Scientists believe that sharks have been in our oceans for around 455 million years. Some species of sharks prefer to live alone while others live in groups called a school or shoal.

## Where do they live?

Sharks can be found in all of the Earth's five oceans: the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic and Southern. Some sharks can even be found in freshwater lakes and rivers. Different species of shark live in different oceans depending on the temperature of the water. Most prefer warmer temperatures though polar sharks prefer colder water.



## What do they eat?

What a shark eats depends on its species and where it lives. Most sharks are carnivores because they like to eat fish and other sharks. Some larger sharks eat dolphins, sea lions and small whales. Smaller sharks eat smaller prey such as clams, crabs and squid.

Some types of shark can be deadly, but only about 12 species have ever attacked humans. In fact, shark attacks are not very common. More people die from bee stings and natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanoes each year than from shark attacks.

## Shark Senses

Sharks have all the senses that humans have; smell, sight, touch, taste and hearing. The strongest is their sense of smell. Sharks can smell a single drop of blood in the water from 400 metres away. They can also hear fish moving from around 500 metres away. Sharks have very good eyesight and they can see in low levels of light.

### 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.

## Did You Know...?

A baby shark is called a pup.



# Sharks - Questions

1. What is a shark's skeleton made of? Tick **one**.

- bone
- muscle
- cartilage
- skin

2. How many species of shark are there? Tick **one**.

- more than 500
- less than 500
- less than 200
- more than 700

3. How long have sharks lived in our oceans?

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4. Name **two** of the world's oceans.

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5. Tick whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Sharks are a type of fish.		
Sharks only live in seawater.		
Shark attacks are very common.		
Sharks have a good sense of smell.		

6. What are Baby Sharks called? Tick **one**.

- pugs
- sharklets
- shells
- pups

7. Why are sharks such good hunters? Explain your answer.

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# Sharks - Answers

1. What is a shark's skeleton made of? Tick **one**.

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2. How many species of shark are there? Tick **one**.

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3. How long have sharks lived in our oceans?

**455 million years**

4. Name **two** of the world's oceans.

**Accept any two of the following: Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, Southern**

5. Tick whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Sharks are a type of fish.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharks only live in seawater.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shark attacks are very common.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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6. What are baby sharks called? Tick **one**.

- pugs
- sharklets
- shells
- pups**

7. Why are sharks such good hunters? Explain your answer.

**Pupil's own response, such as: Sharks are good hunters because they have a really strong sense of smell and can smell a drop of blood from 400 metres away. They can also hear fish moving from around 500 metres away and they can see in low levels of light.**