

What is a Shark?

Sharks are amazing fish that have been around since long before the dinosaurs existed. They live in waters all over the world, in every ocean, and even in some rivers and lakes.

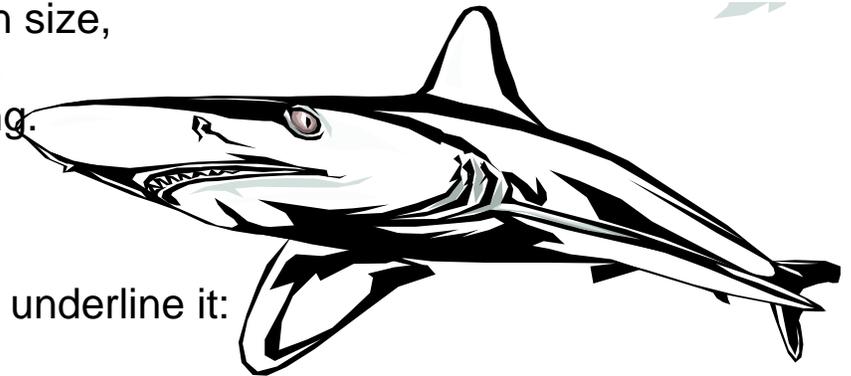
Unlike bony fish, sharks have no bones; their skeleton is made of cartilage, which is a tough, fibrous substance, not nearly as hard as bone.

There are many different species of sharks that range in size from the size of a person's hand to bigger than a bus. Fully-grown sharks range in size from 7 inches (18 cm) long, up to 50 feet (15 m) long.

Most sharks are intermediate in size, and are about the same size as

people, 5-7 feet (1.5-2.1 m) long.

Half of the 368 shark species are under 39 inches (1 m) long.



Choose the correct answer and underline it:

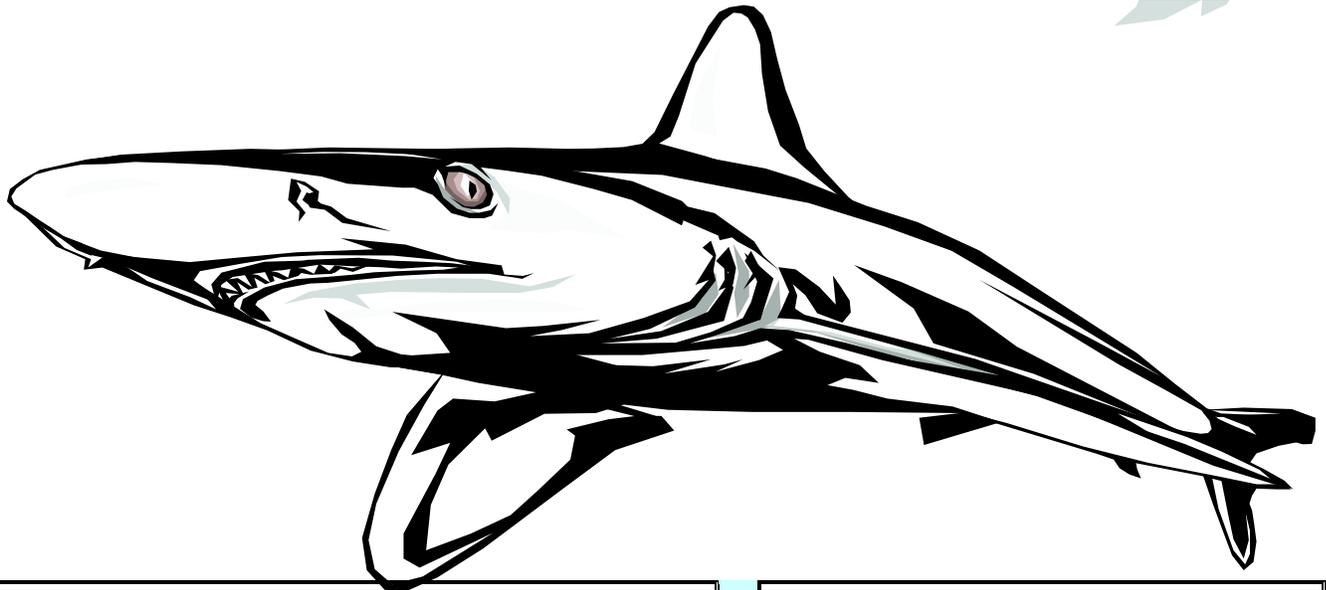
1. Sharks are older than the dinosaurs
Sharks are a type of dinosaur
Sharks killed the dinosaurs.

2. Sharks are found in some oceans
Sharks are found in every ocean
Sharks are only found in rivers and lakes.

3. A shark has a skeleton made of bone.
A shark has no skeleton
A shark has a skeleton made of cartilage

4. All sharks are very big.
Sharks are as big as a bus.
Sharks are various sizes

5. Most sharks are as big as people
Most sharks are much bigger than people.
Most sharks are smaller than people.



Sharks are very skilful predators. Only a few of them are dangerous to people. There are about 375 species of shark. The shark family ranges in size from the 8 inch long Lantern shark to the 40 foot long Whale shark.

All sharks belong to one main family called the Chondrichthyes. This word means that they have a skeleton made out of gristle-like cartilage.

VOCABULARY

Find the meanings of these words in your dictionary.

Predator _____

Cartilage _____

Read the fact box above and answer true or false to the facts given.

1. Sharks are very good at catching their prey. _____
2. All sharks will bite people. _____
3. All sharks are huge. _____
4. There are 375 sharks in the sea. _____
5. All sharks belong to one family. _____
6. Sharks have a cartilage skeleton. _____
7. Some sharks live in rivers. _____

PLURALS

Lets look at one and many.

1. One shark Many _____
2. One fish Many _____
3. One skeleton Many _____
4. One bone Many _____
5. One ocean Many _____
6. One lake Many _____
7. One predator Many _____
8. One person Many _____
9. One family Many _____
10. One dinosaur Many _____

Let's revise the spellings of the plurals above. Look at the word, then cover it and say it to yourself. Check that you got it right. If you did cover the word and try to write it down. Then check that you got it right and give yourself a tick.

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____
7. _____ 8. _____
9. _____ 10. _____