

LEVELED READER • J

Sharks



Written by Kira Freed • Illustrations by Cende Hill

MULTI
LEVEL
J•M•Q

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Sharks

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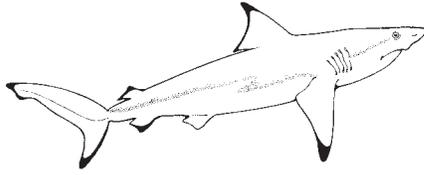


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Sharks have lived in the oceans since before **dinosaurs** walked on Earth. Hundreds of kinds of sharks can be found all over the world.

Introduction



Blue shark

Rays are close relatives of sharks.



Sharks are fish, but their skeletons are made of **cartilage** instead of bones.

Cartilage is what gives human ears their shape.

Unlike most fish, sharks do not have scales.

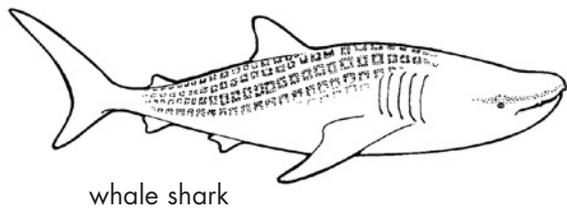
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Sharks have a good sense of smell.
They also see well in the dark.
Sharks can sense other animals moving in the water.



Mako shark

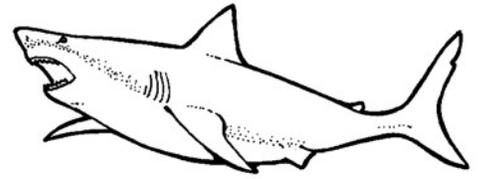


whale shark

pale catshark



Sizes of sharks



great white shark

Description

Sharks come in many sizes.

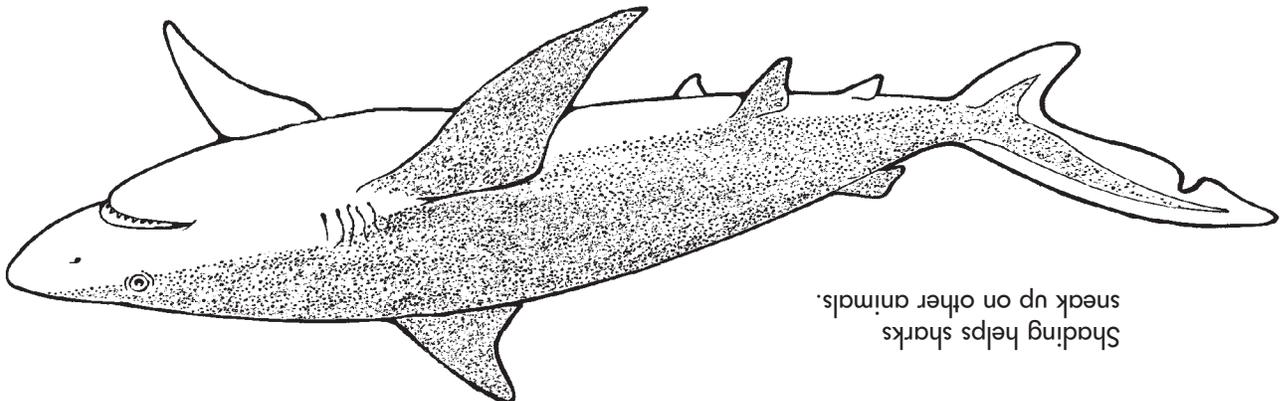
Some sharks are only a few inches long.

The huge whale shark is the largest fish in the world.

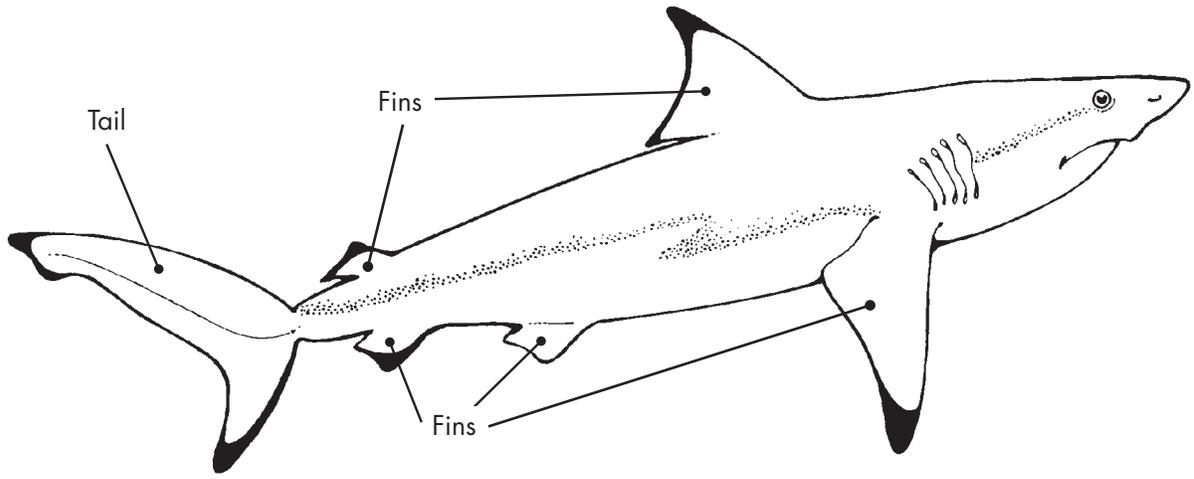
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Many sharks are dark on the top and light on the bottom.
This shading makes it harder for other animals to see them.



Shading helps sharks sneak up on other animals.



Sharks swim by swinging their tails from side to side.
Fins help sharks **steer**, turn, and keep their balance.

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Most sharks have many rows of teeth.
When one tooth breaks off, another one moves up
to take its place.

Eating

A shark may wear out and regrow
a thousand teeth during its lifetime.

Do You Know?



Lemon shark



Do You Know?

A great white shark can swallow a whole seal in one gulp.

Great white shark

Most sharks eat fish.

Large sharks eat sea lions, dolphins, and other sharks.

Some sharks eat shellfish.

These sharks have flat teeth for crushing shells.

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The huge whale shark has tiny teeth but doesn't use them when eating. It swallows very small ocean plants and animals that float near the ocean's surface.



Whale sharks are the biggest fish alive today.

Whitetip reef sharks are normally not dangerous to humans.



Shark Attacks

Many people are afraid of sharks, but most sharks do not attack humans.

Great white sharks are one of the few kinds of sharks that are dangerous to people.

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People hunt sharks for their skin, oil, and teeth.
Many people eat shark meat, and shark fins are used to make soup.

Shark Hunting



Gray reef shark



Many kinds of sharks are now in danger of being completely killed off.

Sharks are an important part of the balance of life in the world's oceans.

They have as much right to live as any other animal.

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cartilage (n.)	an elastic tissue that makes up the skeletons of sharks, and rays (p. 5)
dinosaurs (n.)	a group of reptiles that lived long ago (p. 4)
steer (v.)	turn to move in a desired direction (p. 9)
surface (n.)	the part of the ocean or land that touches the air above it (p. 12)

Glossary