

LEVELED BOOK • J

Sharks



Written by Kira Freed • Illustrated by Cende Hill

MULTI
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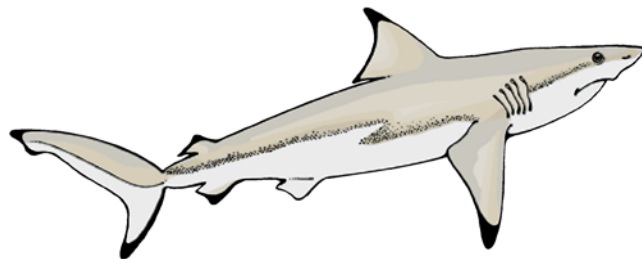


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Blue shark



Introduction

Sharks have lived in the oceans since before **dinosaurs** walked on Earth.

Hundreds of kinds of sharks can be found all over the world.

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 have rough skin.

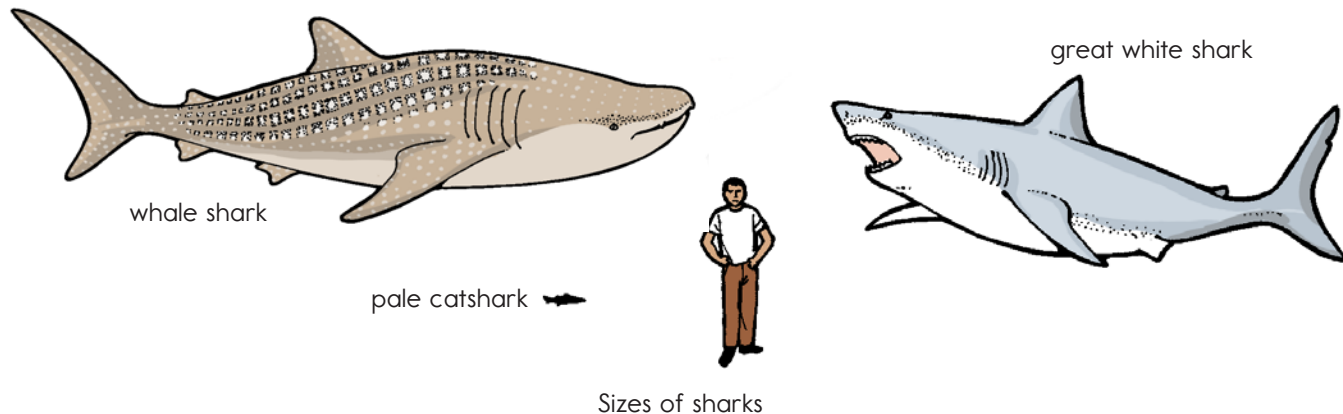
Mako shark



Sharks have a good sense of smell.

They also see well in the dark.

Sharks can sense other animals moving in the water.



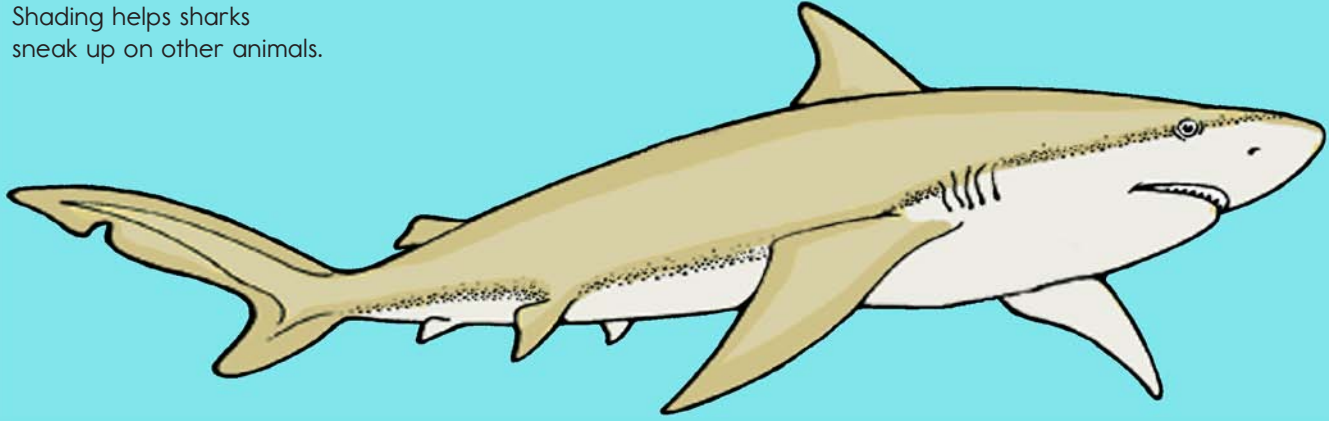
Description

Sharks come in many sizes.

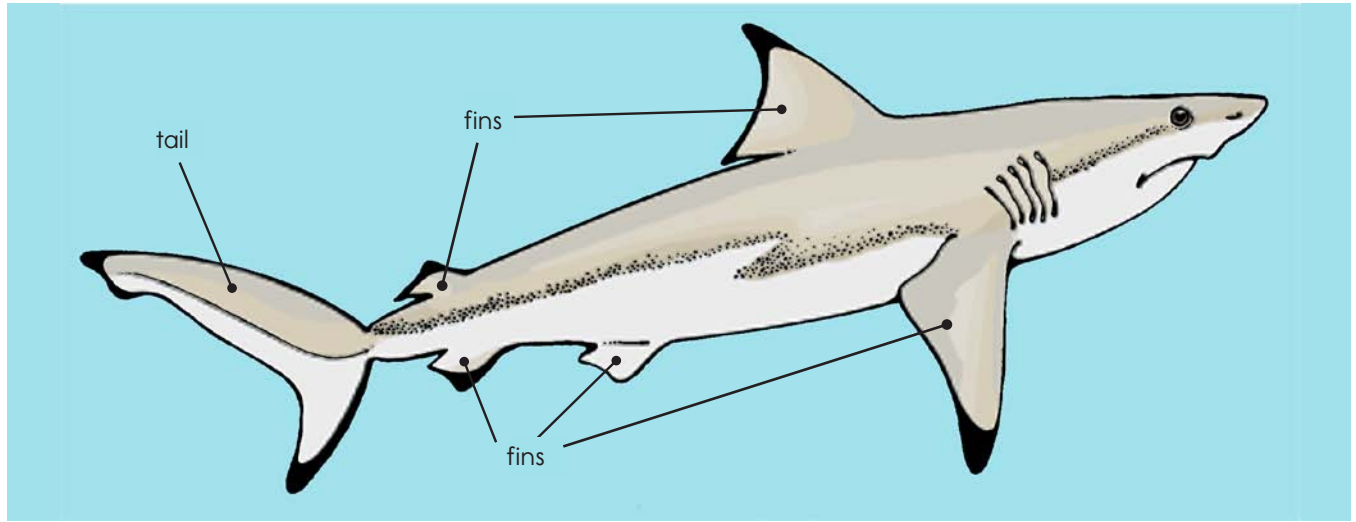
Some sharks are only a few inches long.

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

Shading helps sharks
sneak up on other animals.



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



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

Lemon shark



Do You Know?

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

Eating

Most sharks have many rows of teeth.

When one tooth breaks off, another one moves up to take its place.



Great white shark

Do You Know?

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

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.



Whale sharks are the
biggest fish alive today.

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**.

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.



Shark Hunting

People hunt sharks for their skin, oil, and teeth.

Many people eat shark meat, and shark fins are used to make soup.

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.

Glossary

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.*) to 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)

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