

Sharks of the World

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Gray Shark

- medium-sized shark
- has a white-tipped dorsal fin and dark tips on the others
- can grow to 8 feet long
- can live to be 25 years old
- has a keen sense of smell
- lives near coral reefs
- lives in the Pacific
- eat squid, octopus, and bony fish

Leopard Shark

- their color pattern looks like leopard spots
- live along the Pacific Coast of North America
- prefer to live near the shore
- hang out near the bottom of the ocean
- eat clams, worms, crabs, shrimp, squid, fish, and fish eggs
- prefer to travel in schools

Great White Shark

- the most dangerous shark in the ocean
- one of the largest sharks in the ocean
- can grow to more than 21 feet
- females are typically longer than males
- teeth grow in rows that can hold up to 300 teeth at one time

Whale Shark

- biggest shark species
- live in tropical waters
- live out in the deep waters
- can weigh up to 20,000 pounds
- can have 300-350 rows of teeth at a time
- has a very powerful tail
- is a filter feeder
- has five sets of gills

Thresher Shark

- has a 10 foot tail that it uses to herd small fish
- live in the Pacific and Indian Oceans
- prefer to live independently but occasionally join together in larger groups
- famous for "breaching" or jumping out of the water into the air
- pose very little threat to humans

Spotted Eagle Ray

- tail is three times longer than its body
- found in tropical waters
- average wingspan of 9 feet
- body is shaped like a flat disc
- has a flat snout that looks like the beak of a duck
- tail has poisonous stingers at the base
- dig sand with their snout and fling it through their gills

Blue Shark

- has a slim, torpedo-shaped body
- can grow to be 13 feet
- can weigh 450 pounds
- live in deep waters all over the world - except the Polar Circle
- prefer to eat squid but will also eat smaller sharks, sea birds, shrimp, lobster, and bony fish

Mako Shark

- fastest swimmer
- known to leap out of the water
- found all over the world
- fastest shark species
- can swim 60 miles per hour
- prefer to eat tuna, herring, and swordfish
- very pretty dark blue on top

Tiger Shark

- 2nd most attacks on people
- very aggressive
- fourth largest shark
- tend to live alone
- have amazing eyesight
- like to hunt at night
- eat any type of fish, shark, and animal they find in the water
- grow to an average of 12 feet

Bull Shark

- has a broad, flat nose
- can live in both freshwater and seawater
- one of the top three sharks most likely to attack humans
- average adult is 11 feet long
- can weigh 660 pounds
- females are generally larger than the males

Hammerhead Shark

- can grow to be 10-20 feet
- eyes and nostrils are far apart
- favorite food is the stingray
- 9 species of hammerheads
- prefer to live in warm water, but migrate to cooler water in the summer months
- prefer to live far below the surface of the water
- have a great sense of smell

Nurse Shark

- has thin "whiskers" that they use to touch and feel
- lives at the bottom of the ocean
- nocturnal
- common in aquariums
- can live 25 years
- not aggressive
- strong swimmer
- lives in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans

Sandtiger Shark

- can grow to be 10 feet long
- nocturnal
- lives in coastal waters, offshore reefs, and underwater caves
- very social
- feed on bony fish and invertebrates
- strong swimmer
- some migrate to cooler water in the summer months

Lemon Shark

- mainly found on the southern coast of the US
- name comes from its yellow color
- stays close to the surface of the water
- have a strong sense of smell but poor eyesight
- rarely grow longer than 10 feet
- have curved teeth

Zebra Shark

- small, gentle shark
- can be kept in an aquarium with other fish
- given their name because younger sharks have dark stripes
- live alone
- spend the day resting on the bottom of the ocean
- feeds on mollusks, crustaceans, sea snakes, and bony fish