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'As long as there are people who care and take action, we can and will make a difference.'

FOUNDER OF THE SAVE OUR SEAS FOUNDATION



save our seas
foundation

SHARKS ARE PREHISTORIC

having lived through 5 MASS EXTINCTIONS, including the one that killed the dinosaurs.

SMART ADAPTATIONS

Shark's skin is made up of DERMAL DENTICLES. They look like tiny teeth when viewed under a microscope. These help sharks glide in the water. Humans have copied this material to reduce drag.

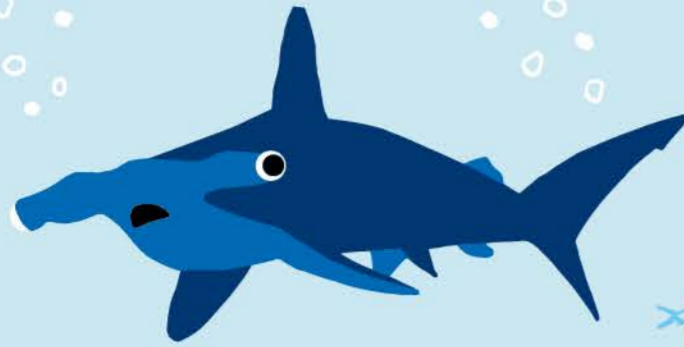


ANCIENT VARIETY

Sharks have lived on planet earth for OVER 400 MILLION YEARS. And there are over 500 DIFFERENT SPECIES (types) of sharks alive today!

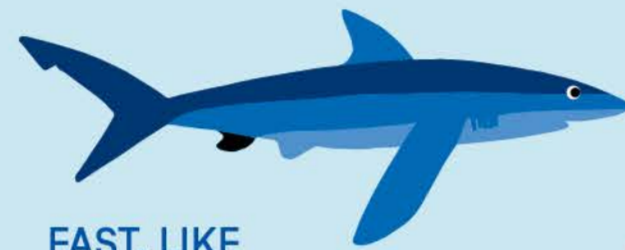


ALL SHAPES AND SIZES



360-DEGREE VISION

Hammerhead sharks have hammer-shaped heads that give them 360-degree vision and which they use to pin stingrays against the seafloor.

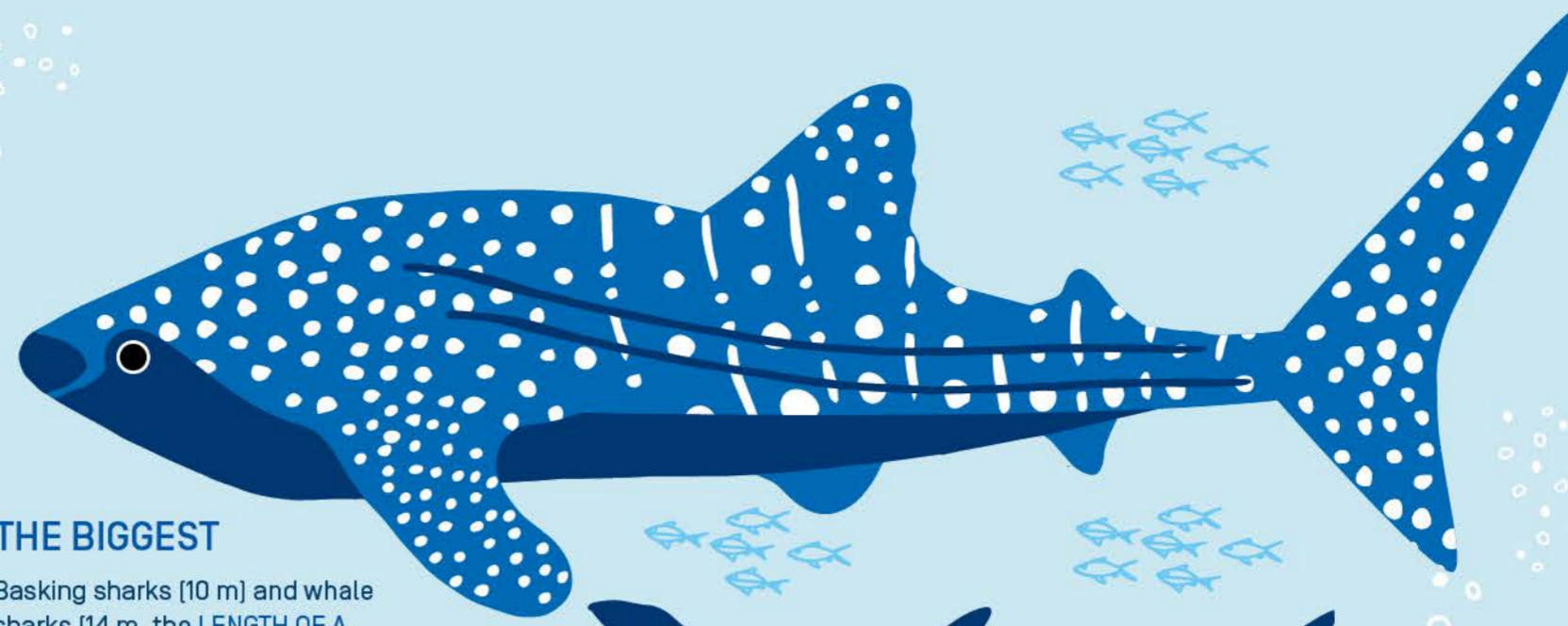


FAST, LIKE A TORPEDO

The blue shark's streamlined shape moves fast, like a torpedo in the water.

THE BIGGEST

Basking sharks (10 m) and whale sharks (14 m, the LENGTH OF A BUS!) are the biggest sharks.



SHARKS ARE JAWSOME!

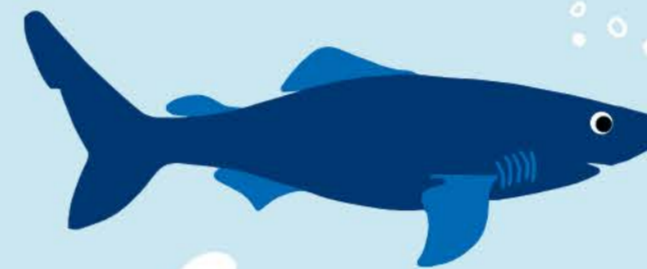
THE SMALLEST

Dwarf lanternsharks (19 cm) are the smallest sharks in the sea and they GLOW IN THE DARK.



LONG LIVES

Greenland sharks live really long. Scientists have found some individuals over 200 years old, and think they may actually live up to 500 YEARS!



SHARKS NEED YOUR HELP

SHARKS IN TROUBLE

Many shark populations have DECLINED BY OVER 90% from OVERFISHING, POLLUTION AND HABITAT LOSS. It is estimated that as many as 273 MILLION SHARKS may be KILLED EACH YEAR FROM FISHERIES alone.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

BE SMART ABOUT THE SEAFOOD YOU EAT!

Ensure you know WHAT IT IS, WHERE IT COMES FROM and HOW ITS FAMILY IS DOING. Look for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) label for sustainability on any seafood that you buy.



CHOOSE REPUTABLE ECO-TOUR OPERATORS

to support sharks in the protected areas that keep them safe. SHARKS ARE WORTH MORE ALIVE THAN DEAD. It has been estimated that a single shark may be worth over \$1 million to tourism over the course of its life, but may only earn \$100 if fished.



KEEP IT CLEAN FOR SHARKS

You can share easy ways to help sharks and the oceans they rely on:

- 1 AVOID SINGLE-USE PLASTICS
- 2 organise beach and RIVER CLEAN UPS and
- 3 remember to REFUSE, REDUCE, RE-USE AND RECYCLE!



BE A SHARK'S BEST FRIEND

Many people are STILL AFRAID of sharks, but you can help change this. SHARE YOUR NEW KNOWLEDGE about why sharks are critical to ocean health. You might just shift their misperceptions and get more people to care about them!



HEALTHY SHARKS = HEALTHY OCEANS

AS PREDATORS, sharks play a CRUCIAL role, HELPING MAINTAIN A DELICATE ECOSYSTEM BALANCE that keeps our oceans healthy. And we need healthy oceans! They provide over 72% of the oxygen we breathe, regulate our climate, are a large source of food, and play a part in our water cycle.



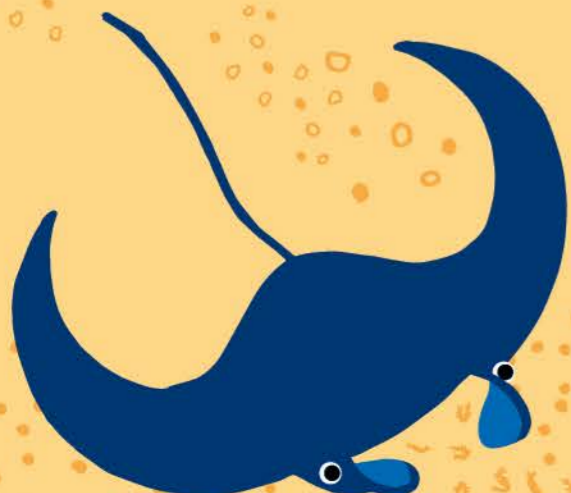
SOME SHARKS ARE APEX PREDATORS.

They sit at the TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN, like the great white shark that hunts seals by ambushing them from deep below the ocean's surface.

SHARKS ARE KEY!

THE "GENTLE GIANTS"

are whale sharks, basking sharks and manta rays that grow to their enormous size by eating the microscopic ocean plants and animals called plankton!



SHARKS LIVE ALL OVER OUR OCEANS,

in different places we call HABITATS. Some, like sixgill sharks, live in the dark, deep sea. Others, like angel sharks that live camouflaged on the sand where divers swim right over them, live in shallow seas.



SOME SHARKS ARE FOUND ONLY IN ONE PLACE

in the whole world – and nowhere else. This is called ENDEMISM. The pyjama catshark is endemic to South Africa. This makes it important to protect these sharks; if they disappear from this one country, they will DISAPPEAR FROM OUR OCEANS ENTIRELY!

