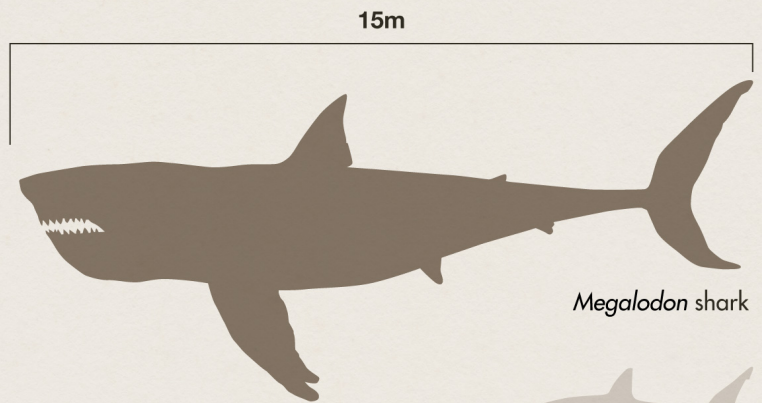


# Megalodon shark (extinct)

*Otodus megalodon*

The largest species of predatory shark to have ever existed. Basing their estimates on the size of the animal's teeth, the *megalodon* averaged around 14–15 metres (46–49 feet) in length.



Megalodon shark

Great white shark

Human

Scientists can project how large *megalodon* was from the size of its teeth. The largest tooth fossil on record was 18 centimetres tall.

*Megalodon's* teeth were designed for cutting and tearing, with fine serrations on the cutting edges.

## Cenozoic Era

2.58 Mya–Present

### Quaternary

Holocene

Pleistocene

23.0 Mya–2.58 Mya

### Neogene

Pliocene

Miocene

66.0 Mya–23.0 Mya

### Paleogene

Oligocene

Eocene

Paleocene

*Megalodon* dominated prehistoric seas until its disappearance about 3.6 million years ago, in a period of geological time known as the Miocene.

23 to 3.6 million years ago (Mya)