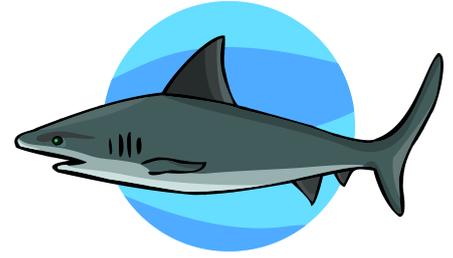


## WORDS

- **chunk** = a large piece of something
- **coast** = place where the sea meets land
- **crab** = sea animal with a hard shell, five legs on each side and two large claws = *Krebs*
- **either** = *entweder*
- **fear** = to be afraid of
- **fin** = one of the thin body parts that a fish uses to swim
- **flat** = *flach*
- **habit** = things that you normally do
- **habitat** = the living area of animals or fish
- **pointed** = *spitz*
- **prefer** = to like more than something else
- **replace** = *ersetzen*
- **rough** = *rau*
- **scales** = small flat pieces of skin that cover the body of a fish
- **seal** = a large sea animal that eats fish and lives around coasts = *Robbe*
- **shape** = form
- **snout** = long nose of an animal or fish
- **stiff** = *steif*
- **surface** = *Oberfläche*
- **tear off** = *abreißen*
- **twice** = two times
- **weigh** = *wiegen*
- **whole** = *als Ganzes*

The shark is a meat-eating fish and one of the most **feared** animals in the sea. There are over 300 types of sharks that live in oceans all over the world. Most of them live in warm seas but some sharks **prefer** colder regions like the seas around Antarctica.



The first sharks lived in our oceans about 300 million years ago. They belong to the earth's oldest animals.

## SIZE AND HABITAT

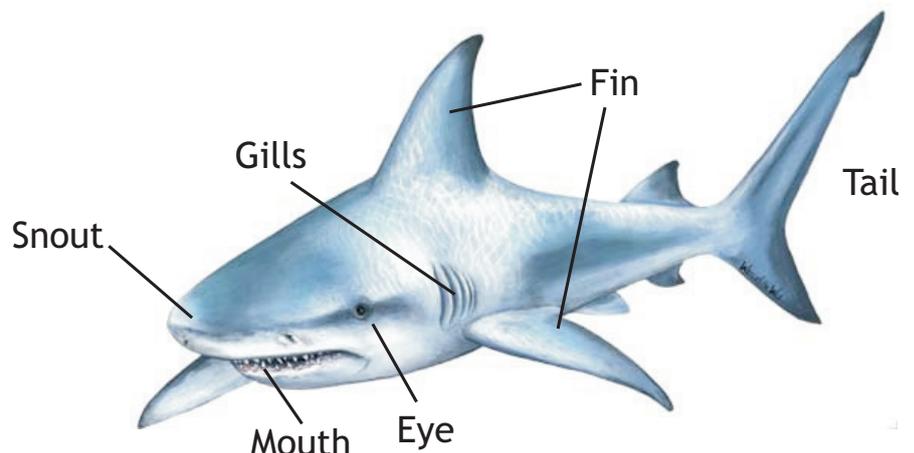
Sharks have different sizes and **habits**. The largest is the whale shark, which can grow up to 15 metres long and **weigh twice** as much as an elephant. The smallest sharks are only about 16 cm long and **weigh** about 28 grams. One of the strangest looking sharks is the hammerhead, with a **flat** head that looks like a hammer.

Some kinds of sharks live in the deepest parts of the ocean, others are found near the **surface**. Some stay close to the **coast**, while others swim far out at sea. A few types of sharks even live in rivers and lakes.

All sharks are meat eaters. Most of them eat other fish, **either** as a **whole** or by **tearing** off **chunks** of a bigger fish. They also eat dead animals, plankton, **crabs**, sea turtles, **seals**, sometimes even whales.

## A SHARK'S BODY

Most sharks have a body that is **shaped** like a torpedo. The two side **fins** are **stiff**; the tail is often curved and it helps the shark swim. Small **scales** cover a shark's body and make its skin very **rough**. The mouth of most sharks is at the bottom of the head. They have many rows of teeth, which are sharp and **pointed**. New teeth grow and **replace** the older ones, sometimes as often as every week. Behind the eyes, sharks have



## WORDS

- **avoid** = not do something
- **chunk** = a large piece of something
- **dive** = to swim under water with tanks that help you breathe
- **especially** = *besonders*
- **flesh** = the soft part of the body of a person or animal that is between the skin and the bones
- **gill** = one of the organs on the side of a fish through which it breathes
- **goods** = things that are produced in factories
- **human being** = a person
- **immediately** = at once, quickly
- **liver** = *Leber*
- **movement** = *Bewegung*
- **open cut** = *offene Wunde*
- **otherwise** = or else
- **provoke** = to make someone or something react suddenly
- **record** = information that is written down so that you can find it in the future = *aufzeichnen*
- **rip off** = tear off = *abreißen*
- **rule** = *Regel*
- **seldom** = not very often
- **senses** = the five natural powers that humans and animals have - seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting and smelling
- **smoothly** = *sanft*
- **speed** = *Geschwindigkeit*
- **tuna** = a large sea fish that is caught for food
- **worried** = *beunruhigt*

five to seven **gills** on each side of the head. They use them to breathe underwater.

Sharks have sharp **senses**. They can find a fish to eat by the sound that it makes. They also have good eyes and can see almost everything in dark areas. Sharks must swim fast and well, **otherwise** they will sink. Some types have been **recorded** to swim at **speeds** of up to 90 km an hour.

## BEHAVIOUR

More than half of the sharks in the world are not dangerous to people and **seldom** attack them. Among the most dangerous is the white shark, a fish with sharp teeth that can **rip off chunks** of **flesh** from animals. They hunt for large animals, such as sea lions, **tuna** and other sharks. They have even attacked **human beings**, **especially** when they are hungry or **worried**. **Movement**, noises or blood in the water can **provoke** sharks and make them attack.

## IMPORTANCE OF SHARKS

Fishermen catch sharks mostly for their skin and **flesh**. Shark skin is used to make leather **goods**. The Chinese use dry shark **fins** to make popular and expensive soup. The **liver** oil of sharks has a lot of vitamin A.

## SAFETY

Swimmers should always be careful in areas known to have sharks. Here are some **rules** to follow.

- Never swim or **dive** alone.
- Never swim or **dive** if you have an **open cut** on your body.
- Leave the water **immediately** when you see a shark. Swim as **smoothly** as possible and **avoid** wild **movements**.

