
Sharks

WORKSHEET A

Is there a wild animal more feared than the shark? They are creatures that have a place in many people's nightmares, partly because of films such as *Jaws* (1975) and *Open Water* (2004).

Whenever sharks attack humans – such as in early December last year, at a holiday resort on the Red Sea coast of Egypt, when one person died and four were seriously injured in the same week – it ensures they keep their frightening reputation.

What many people might not realize, however, is how rare shark attacks are. In most years there are fewer than a hundred reported attacks worldwide, and fewer than ten are fatal. More people per year die from bee stings (usually because they are allergic to them), or from being struck by lightning.

It is true that sharks are highly efficient predators, but out of a total of around 400 different species, only about 30 are known to have attacked humans. In the seas off northern Europe, for example, there are various species of shark but none of them are dangerous.

In fact, just four species are responsible for most of the attacks on humans: the great white (made famous by *Jaws*), tiger shark, bull shark, and oceanic whitetip. The great white, which can grow to more than five metres in length, is found mostly off the coast of Australia, South Africa, California and Mexico. Even with these more aggressive species, however, experts say some attacks probably happen when the animals mistake humans for their normal prey such as seals (for example in the case of surfers lying on their boards).

The largest shark of all is the whale shark, which can grow to up to 12 metres in length. That may sound terrifying, but in fact they are gentle creatures that eat mostly plankton. Some whale sharks will even allow divers to hitch a ride by holding on to one of their fins.

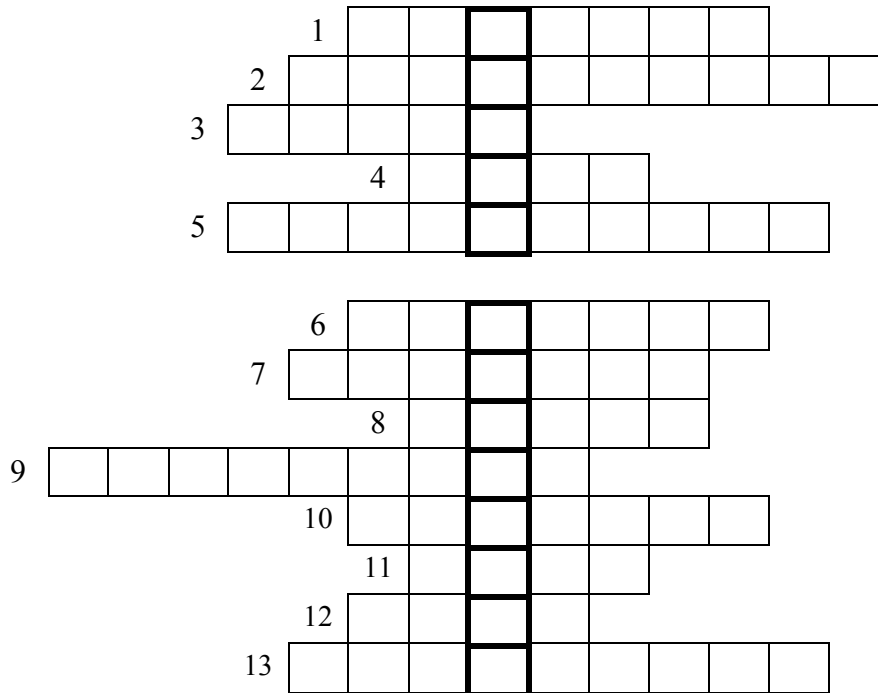
Overall, humans are far more dangerous to sharks than they are to us. It is estimated that at least 100 million sharks per year are killed through fishing (shark meat is eaten in various different countries), and a large number also die when they become trapped in nets put in place to catch other fish. As a result, many species of shark are now in danger of becoming extinct.

Sharks

WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the approximate number of teeth that a great white shark has will read from top to bottom.



1. The text suggests that many species of shark might soon become _____.
2. Sharks are a kind of animal that people could have _____ about.
3. In most years, _____ than ten people worldwide die from shark attacks.
4. Many sharks die when they become trapped in fishing _____.
5. Whale sharks are not _____.
6. Shark _____ are very rare.
7. _____ probably kills at least 100 million sharks per year.
8. There are some great white sharks off the _____ of Mexico.
9. Most species of shark are not _____ to humans.
10. Some species of shark might sometimes _____ humans for their normal prey.
11. The shark in _____ was a great white.
12. A shark's _____ help it move through the water.
13. Sharks are _____.

Sharks

Exercise 2

Most of the text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but contains some mistakes. Fifteen of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

Is there a wild animal more feared than the shark? They are creatures that have a place in many people's nightmares, partly because of films such as *Jaws* (1975) and *Open Water* (2004).

Whenever sharks attack humans – such as in early December last year, at a holiday (1) **resort** on the Red Sea coast of Egypt, when one person died and four were seriously injured in the same week – it ensures they keep their frightening (2) **perutation**.

What many people might not realize, however, is how rare shark attacks are. In most years there are fewer than a hundred reported attacks (3) **worldround**, and fewer than ten are (4) **fatals**. More people per year die from bee (5) **sings** (usually because they are allergic (6) **to** them), or from being struck by (7) **lightthing**.

It is true that sharks are highly efficient predators, but out of a total of around 400 different species, only about 30 are known to have attacked humans. In the seas off northern Europe, for example, there are various species of shark but none of them are dangerous.

In fact, just four species are (8) **responsible** for most of the attacks on humans: the great white (made famous by *Jaws*), tiger shark, bull shark, and oceanic whitetip. The great white, which can grow to more than five metres in (9) **long**, is found mostly off the coast of Australia, South Africa, California and Mexico. Even with these more aggressive species, however, (10) **expos** say some attacks probably happen when the animals mistake humans (11) **to** their normal (12) **pray** such as (13) **meals** (for example in the case of surfers lying on their boards).

The largest shark of all is the whale shark, which can grow to up to 12 metres in length. That may sound (14) **terrific**, but in fact they are (15) **gentle** creatures that eat mostly plankton. Some whale sharks will even allow divers to (16) **hit** a ride by holding on to one of their fins.

Overall, humans are far more dangerous to sharks than they are to us. It is estimated that at least 100 (17) **millions** sharks per year are killed through (18) **fish** (shark meat is (19) **eaten** in various different countries), and a large number also die when they become trapped in nets put in place to catch other (20) **fishes**. As a result, many species of shark are now in danger of becoming extinct.