

1. Sharks

The subject of this week's lesson is sharks, whose fearsome reputation has been created partly by films such as *Jaws* and maintained by incidents such as the ones off the coast of Egypt in December last year. The truth is, however, that humans are an infinitely greater threat to sharks than they are to us.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm on the subject of sharks. What does the word 'shark' make your students think of? What films (or documentaries) about sharks have they seen? If your students' country has a coast inhabited by some species of shark, what do your students know about them? Have any of your students ever seen a shark themselves? If so, encourage them to describe the circumstances.
2. Divide your students into pairs, then hand out Worksheet A and give them five to ten minutes to read through it. Encourage them to look up new vocabulary.
3. Keeping your students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet B and ask them to complete the crossword.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Ask the students to turn over their copies of Worksheets A and B, and their glossaries. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C, which contains most of the text from Worksheet A with fifteen incorrect words that the students have to identify and correct. The words containing the mistakes are all in bold, as are five other words that are correct. Point out that the mistakes are all grammatical or lexical, and that no correction requires them to write any additional words.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. extinct 2. nightmares 3. fewer 4. nets 5. aggressive 6. attacks 7. Fishing
8. coast 9. dangerous 10. mistake 11. seals 12. *Jaws* 13. fins 14. predators

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *three thousand* will read from top to bottom.

Exercise 2

2. reputation 3. worldwide 4. fatal 5. stings 7. lightning 9. length
10. experts 11. for 12. prey 13. seals 14. terrifying 16. hitch 17. million
18. fishing 20. fish

Words in bold that are correct: 1. resort 6. to 8. responsible 15. gentle 19. eaten

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_8490000/newsid_8492600/8492693.stm

A short article from BBC *Newsround* on a girl in New Zealand who fought off a shark by hitting it with her body-board (2010). On the right-hand side of the page there is a link to a quiz on sharks, plus a 'Guide to Sharks' (*What are sharks?*). Aimed primarily at children and teenagers. Appropriate for intermediate level.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2010/dec/07/things-likely-kill-than-shark?INTCMP=SRCH>

From the *Guardian*, a very short text on 'five things more likely to kill you than a shark' (2010). Accessible to intermediate level.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1252237/Great-White-Sharks-endangered-tigers-just-3-500-left-oceans.html>

An article on the risk of extinction to great white sharks from the *Daily Mail* (2010). Challenging for intermediate level.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-11980249>

A BBC report in the aftermath of the shark attacks near Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in December 2010. Challenging for intermediate level.