

DISCOVER SHARK SMART

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GREAT WHITE SHARK



Size: Great whites are the largest predatory fish on Earth. They grow to an average of 15 ft (4.6 m) in length, with some exceeding 20 feet (6 m) and weigh up to 5,000 lb (2,268 kg).
Identification: They have slate-gray upper bodies to blend in with the coastal sea floor, but get their name from their white underbellies.
Biology: Their mouths are lined with up to 300 serrated, triangular teeth arranged in several rows. Prey items include seals, sea lions, elephant seals, small toothed whales, sea tur-

Behavior: They are stream-lined torpedo-shaped swimmers with powerful tails that can propel at speeds of up to 15 mph (24 km). They can even leave the water completely, breaching like whales when attacking prey from underneath. Attack strategy consists of a swift, surprise attack from below, inflicting a large, potentially fatal bite. Despite the fact that the great white shark has the highest number of overall attacks and fatalities, you still have an 80% chance of surviving an attack. Recent research finds that great whites,

SHARK SENSES



each nostril. This is similar to the method mammals use to determine direction of sound. Some sharks have also been seen at the surface of the water with their nose up in the air. It is believed that they use that great sense of smell to detect airborne scents too. Taste buds of a shark aren't found on their tongue. Instead they are all over the inside of their mouths.
Hearing: Sharks can also hear extremely well. Some of the species have the ability to hear prey for miles from where they happen to be. They have openings on the sides of their heads that lead to the inner ear through a thin channel. They can hear at an un-

One of the reasons that sharks are such successful predators is that they have such super senses.
Smell: Sharks have an astounding sense of smell, so powerful that they can detect a single drop of blood in an Olympic-sized pool. In fact, 2/3 of a shark's brain is dedicated to this keen

SHARK ATTACK BEHAVIOR SNEAK ATTACK



Sneak attacks happen without any warning, and the victim usually doesn't see the shark before the attack. The attack is a territorial act, with the intent to "displace" or clear the area of an intrusion perceived as a threat. Having made its decision to attack, the shark may drop to the bottom and hurl itself upward at its victim with enormous speed. The attack may be carried out in a series of deep and vicious bites. Very often, these repetitive, aggressive bites are carried out without any tearing of flesh, with the sole goal to kill the intruder. These types of attacks usually involve divers or swimmers in deeper waters, but can occur in the shallows in some areas of the world. Injuries incurred during this type of territorial attack are usually quite severe, frequently resulting in fatalities. This kind of unprovoked attack is rarely a case of mistaken identity.

WHAT KINDS OF SHARKS ATTACK PEOPLE? TOP 10 MOST DANGEROUS SHARKS

Of some 390 described species of sharks, only 27 (7%) have been implicated or are suspected of attacking humans. Virtually all shark attack experts agree on the four most dangerous species, although not all agree on the order from most to least. Most would rank the ten most dangerous as follows:

1. Great White Shark
2. Tiger Shark
3. Bull Shark
4. Oceanic Whitetip Shark
5. Blue Shark
6. Shortfin Mako Shark
7. Narrowtooth Shark
8. Blacktip Shark
9. Sand Tiger Shark
10. Lemon Shark

This list is scaled by likelihood of inflicting serious injury per attack. However, on a world-wide basis, the bull shark may be statistically the most dangerous species. Main factors include: Its shallow coastal and tropical river habitat, aggressive nature and abundance, brings this shark in contact with more people

shark in that habitat. However in cool temperate coastal areas - especially off California, South Australia, and South Africa - the Great White is the most dangerous shark. In practice, it is probably safest to regard any shark longer than about 5 ft (1.5 m) as potentially dangerous.

TIGER SHARK



Identification: Tiger sharks are named for the dark, vertical stripes found mainly on juveniles. As these sharks mature, the lines begin to fade and almost disappear.
Size: Large specimens can grow to lengths of 20-25 ft (6-7.5 m) and weigh more than 1,900 lb (900 kg).
Biology: They have sharp, highly serrated teeth and powerful jaws that allow them to crack the shells of sea turtles and dams. Other prey include: Boney fish, stingrays, sea snakes, seals, birds, and squid. Their wide ranging palate makes them efficient scavengers.

Distribution: Tiger sharks are common in tropical and sub-tropical waters throughout the world and are often found in river mouths, estuaries and harbors, as well as shallow water close to shore, where they are bound to encounter humans.
Behaviour: The tiger shark is considered to be one of the most dangerous and aggressive shark species. They are second only to great whites in attacking people, however, proportionately more tiger shark attacks are fatal than great white shark attacks.

SHARK MYTHS



- Most sharks are harmful to people.
- Shark attacks are common.
- Sharks intentionally seek out human prey.
- Sharks must roll over on their sides to bite.
- Sharks eat continuously.
- Shark attacks are on the rise.
- Sharks will eat anything, including you.
- The great white shark is an abundant species found off most beaches.
- Shark fins are flavorful, nutritious, and offer medicinal properties.
- Sharks have peanut-sized brains and are incapable of learning.
- Most sharks cruise at high speed when they swim.
- Sharks are not found in freshwater.
- All sharks are found in the ocean.
- Sharks are not found in freshwater.

SHARK ATTACK BEHAVIOR HIT AND RUN



This is the most common type of attack. This can also be classified as a predatory attack, in which the shark will usually give the swimmer or surfer a single bite before retreating. Usually the shark will not return, having realized that the human is bigger than, or different to its normal prey. Mistaken identity may often be a factor, when sharks encounter humans in black wetsuits, often riding surfboards that create prey-like silhouettes, such as seals and turtles. Pounding surf, strong currents, and water likely increase the potential for confusion

on the part of the shark. Two thirds of people struck by a shark don't see the shark approaching. In other cases, shark attacks may be prompted simply by curiosity or aggression. Many people, however, are merely grazed by sharks, whose skin is hard and abrasive, leaving welts that bleed. Legs or feet are often bitten; wounds usually are minor and deaths rarely occur. Deaths however have occasionally occurred when a shark severely injures a vital organ or severs a major artery, or if the victim does not receive medical attention immediately.

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