All About Sharks

Carmel Reilly



PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

All About Sharks

Level 23 **Curriculum Area** Science

Running Words 880 **Text Types** Information Report (Informative) pages 2–16
Exposition (Persuasive) pages 17–22

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the information report and exposition in his or her own words.

Record the retellings for further discussion and reflection.

Think and Talk About ...

Fact boxes in the book encourage each student to explore the statements further and to share the information with others.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 Why can sharks bend easily when they swim?

2 What is a group of sharks called?

Inferential

3 How does a shark's skin colour help it as a predator?

4 Why are sharks such fearsome creatures?

5 What type of food would a Wobbegong Shark eat?

6 Why do Whale Sharks have to swim so far to find enough food?

Applied Knowledge

7 Why are the sea waters near Central America so warm?

Why Sharks Need To Be Protected

Literal

1 What are top predators?

Inferential

2 How would sharks scare stingrays away from seagrass beds?

3 Why do fish breed in seagrass beds?

Applied Knowledge

4 Why do fish groups need to be balanced?

5 What could happen if the shark population increased out of control?

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 23	Card	Information report	*Aerial Shark Patrols*
Level 24	Book	Information report	*Animals with Armour*

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What Are Sharks?

Sharks are a type of fish.
They are one of the oldest animals on our planet.
They have lived on Earth since before the time of the dinosaurs.



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Sharks can be found in oceans all around the world, except for cold areas around the Arctic and Antarctic. Some sharks live near the surface of the water, while others live deep in the ocean.

There are more than 400 **species** of shark.





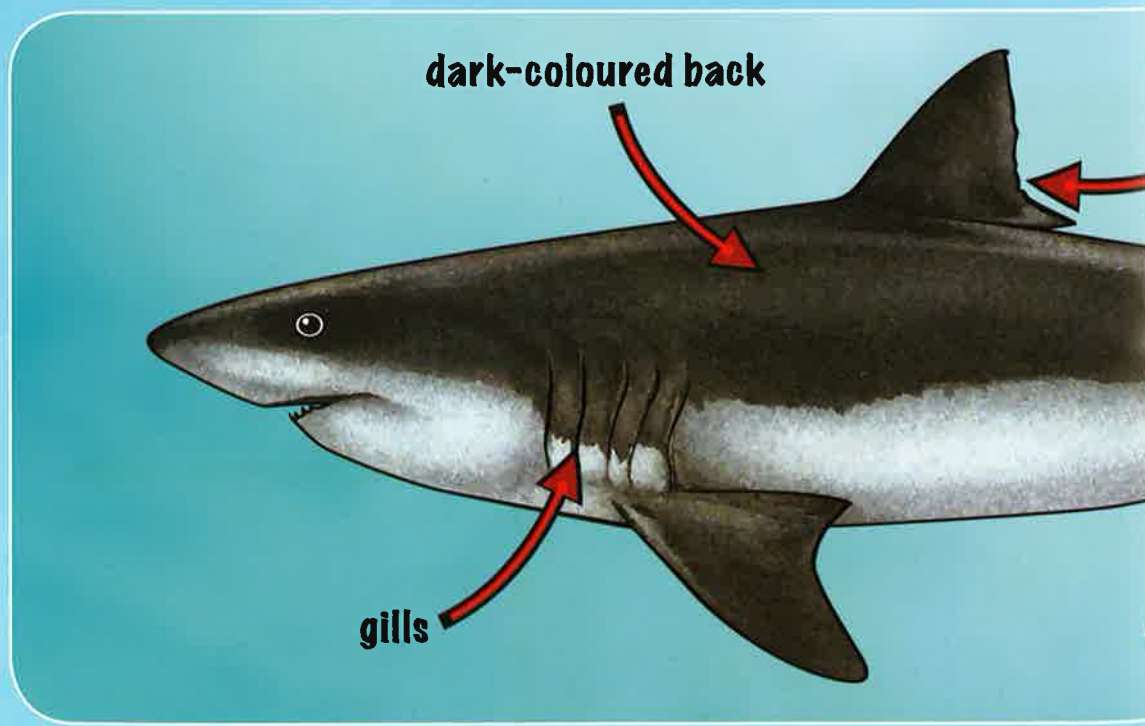


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What Sharks Look Like

Most sharks have long, narrow bodies,
with dark-coloured backs and light-coloured underbellies.
They are covered with very thick skin,
which is made up of thousands of small, rough scales.

Sharks breathe through their gills.
Each shark has between five and seven gills
on each side of its head.



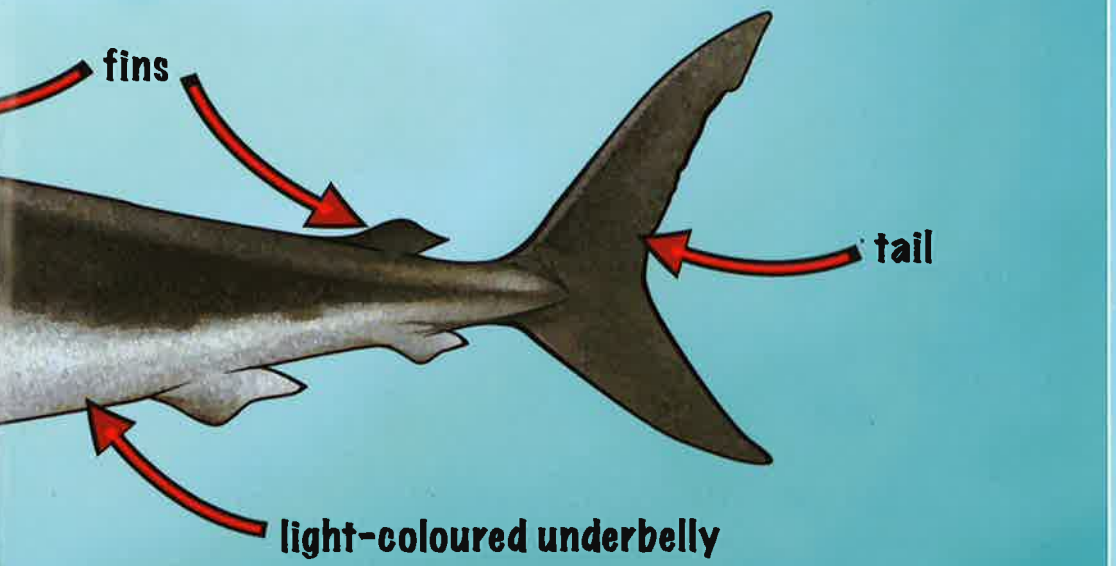
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Sharks have eight fins and a strong tail, which help to steer and **propel** them through the water.

The smallest sharks are less than 20 centimetres long.
The largest sharks can be more than 12 metres in length.

Think and Talk About ...

The Whale Shark is the largest fish in the world.



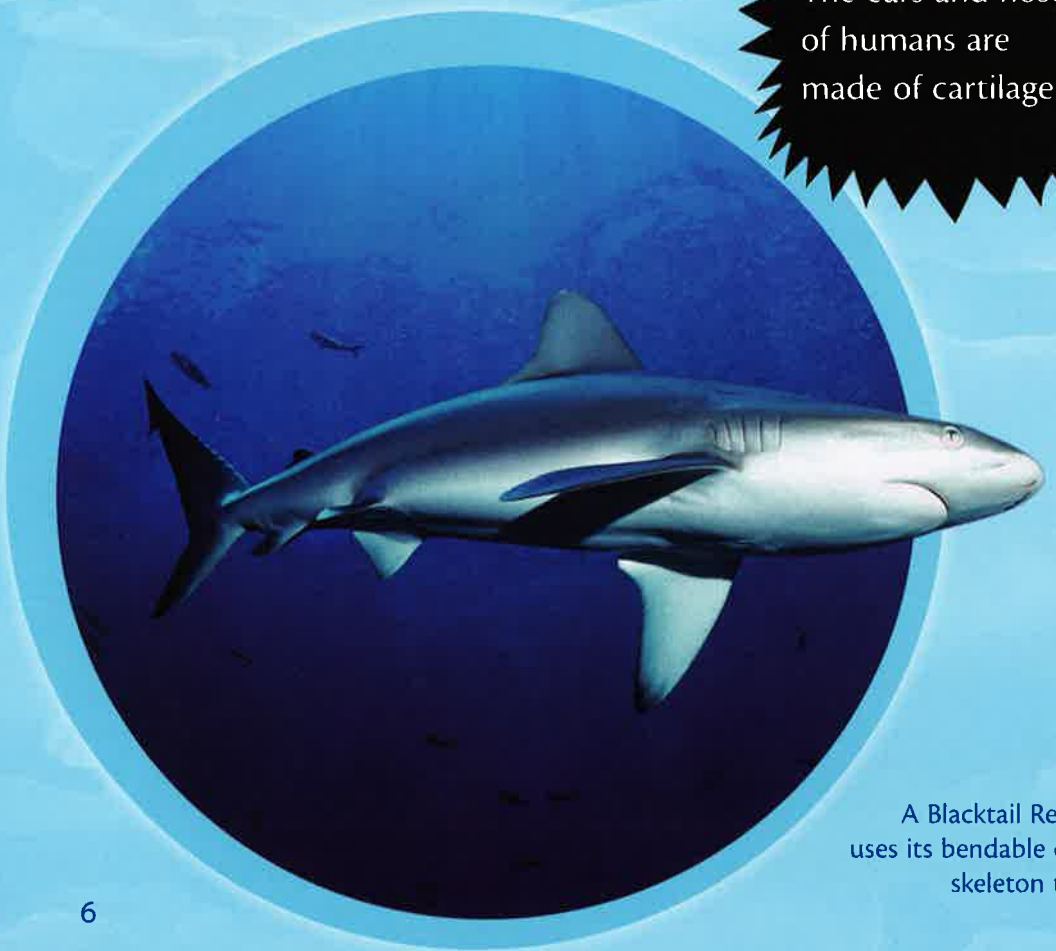
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Sharks' Skeletons

Sharks do not have bones like other fish. Instead, their skeletons are made of cartilage. Cartilage is not as heavy as bone. It can bend more easily, helping sharks to move quickly through the water.

Think and Talk About ...

The ears and noses of humans are made of cartilage.



A Blacktail Reef Shark uses its bendable cartilage skeleton to swim.

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Sharks' Teeth

Sharks have two or three rows of sharp teeth for tearing food.
They often lose their teeth, but when this happens,
new teeth grow in their place.
Sharks can grow thousands of new teeth during their lives.



Sharks use their sharp teeth when hunting for food.