

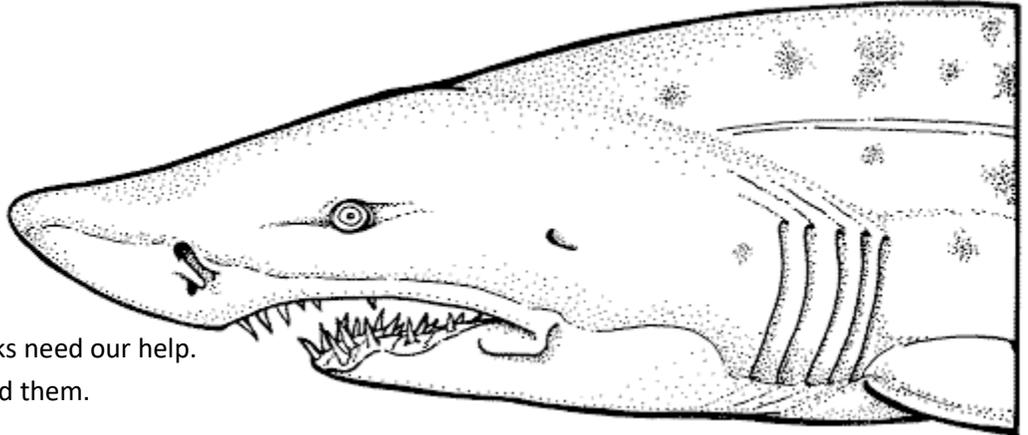
Saving our Sharks



S.O.S.

... - - - ...

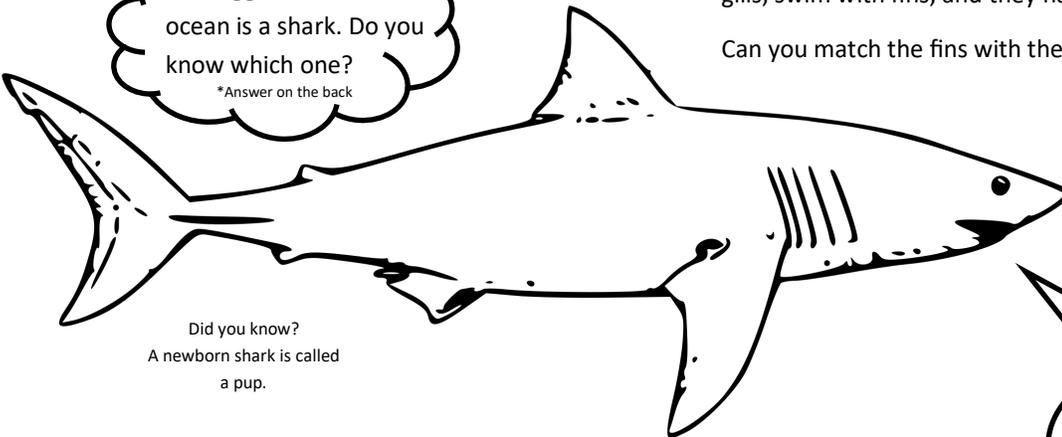
In Morse Code, SOS, represents a distress signal. It means that someone is in need of help. Sharks need our help. But, first, we've got to understand them. Are you up to the challenge?



Sharks are fish. That means that they live in water, breathe with gills, swim with fins, and they have an internal skeleton.

Can you match the fins with their names?

The biggest fish in the ocean is a shark. Do you know which one?
*Answer on the back

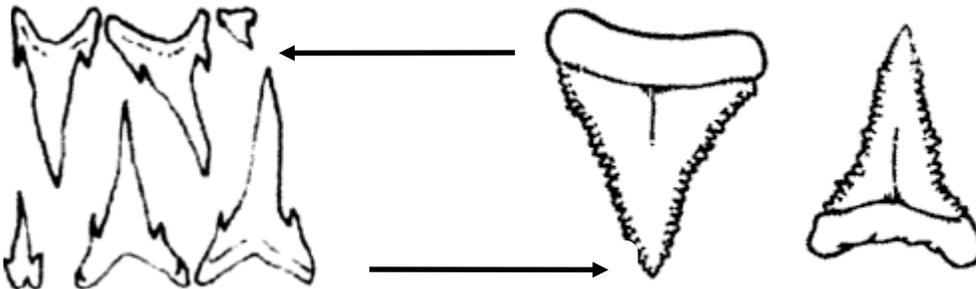


Did you know?
A newborn shark is called a pup.

The number of gill slits, dorsal fins, pelvic, and anal fins will vary from species to species. They can be used to identify the species of an individual.

Sharks are **apex predators**. They are the **carnivores** at the top of their ocean food chain. Their sharp teeth are essential for eating. Some species have long thin teeth like the prongs of a fork. Some have wide triangular teeth with serrated edges like a knife.

Label the teeth below as a fork or a knife.



Sharks do have an internal skeleton, but it is not made of bone. Do you know what a shark skeleton is made of? Here's a hint: its right at the tip of your nose.
*Answer on the back.

Megalodon is the name of the largest shark species believed to have ever lived. It would have measured approximately 60 feet long.

The largest Megalodon tooth reported thus far was $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Mark that length on the ruler below by drawing a serrated shark tooth. Then measure your hand on the ruler and mark the length of your longest finger. Which is bigger?



Sharks

R	C	N	B	Y	C	A	T	C	H	E	S	A	C
K	A	A	O	I	E	I	A	G	A	A	U	R	G
S	R	G	R	D	I	R	C	A	T	C	S	O	V
C	S	A	R	T	O	F	R	F	O	C	T	T	A
R	A	A	H	E	I	L	R	E	L	A	A	A	A
I	N	R	L	S	A	L	A	H	C	P	I	D	T
T	D	P	N	P	E	T	A	G	E	W	N	E	G
T	T	I	U	I	R	L	W	G	E	A	A	R	R
E	I	P	G	T	V	F	A	H	E	M	B	P	S
E	G	E	D	N	I	O	B	H	I	E	L	X	M
T	E	N	R	S	C	L	R	G	W	T	E	E	S
H	R	N	H	A	I	A	R	E	E	P	E	P	F
N	R	V	I	L	U	S	D	N	A	L	G	A	E
V	A	E	C	Y	C	W	D	A	P	P	O	A	F

- WHALE SHARK
- SAND TIGER
- GREAT WHITE
- SUSTAINABLE
- FISH
- CARTILAGE
- APEX PREDATOR
- TEETH
- MEGALODON
- CARNIVORE
- PUP
- BYCATCH

The biggest fish in the ocean at 30—40 ft. long. Ironically, it eats the smallest animals in the ocean, zooplankton.

The same flexible tissue that makes the tip of your nose and your ears makes up the entire skeleton of sharks and rays.

The NC Aquariums are dedicated to protecting sharks. Our staff works with other organizations to tag and study sand tiger sharks, especially. Did you know that sand tigers, especially females, like to hang out near shipwrecks? NC is called The Graveyard of the Atlantic because of all of the shipwrecks that lie underwater along our coast. Our researchers believe that the females go to those shipwrecks to give birth to their young. **From the word search list above, which word to you think is used to describe a newborn shark?** *Answer on front



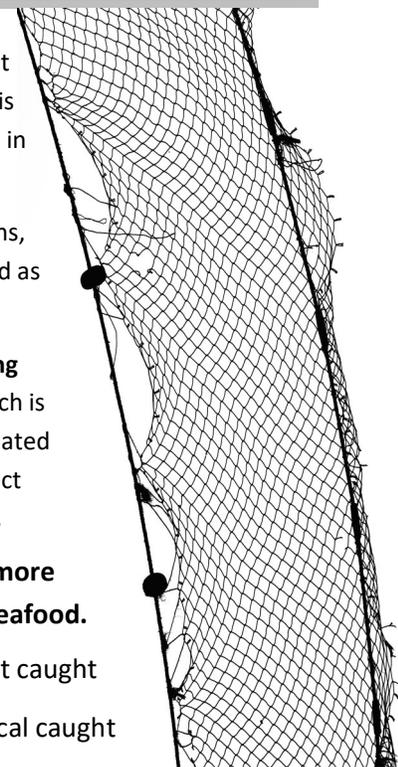
One of the biggest threats to sharks is getting entangled in fishing nets.

When this happens, they are described as **bycatch**.

Sustainable fishing means that bycatch is reduced or eliminated and it helps protect wild populations .

Put a circle around the more sustainable option for seafood.

- Hook caught or Net caught
- Imported or Local caught



Enjoy a video presentation about sharks on our YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/user/NCAquariumFortFisher>