

Name: _____

Sharks Are Awesome!

By Lydia Lukidis

Sharks have been around for a long, long time. How long? Well, they were around even before the dinosaurs!



There are about 400 kinds of sharks that live all around the world.

Some

are c

about

white



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is unique in its own way. But one thing all sharks have in common is that they do not have a single bone in their bodies! Their skeleton is made up of cartilage instead. Cartilage is tough but flexible tissue. To give you an idea, we have cartilage in our ears and noses. Sharks have teeth though. In fact a shark always has a row of smaller teeth growing behind its front teeth. As time goes on, the smaller teeth move forward and the front teeth fall out.

If you saw a shark in the ocean, would you be scared? You probably would be! That's because sharks have a bad reputation. They are called predators. This means many of them hunt and eat other animals. People assume they are dangerous. But you don't need to worry. There are only about 65 shark attacks in the whole world each year. Only a few people die from the attacks. You are more likely to get hit by lightning!

In fact, many people say that humans are the real predators. People kill thousands of sharks each year for sport and for food. Sometimes shark skins are used like leather to make products. In some countries, people eat shark fin soup and shark steak. The saddest part is that many sharks are killed just for their fins. This is called shark finning. Because of these issues, some sharks are endangered. That means there are very few left.



are
oce
rem
respect!

A cartoon illustration of a superhero character with brown hair, wearing a red suit with a blue cape and a blue chest emblem. He is flying towards the right, holding a green object in his hands.

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About the Author



Lydia Lukidis is a published children's author with a multi-disciplinary background that spans the fields of literature, theater and puppetry.

Lydia's picture book, *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine*, is now available. Find out if Mocha will ever get his silly son to sleep!

Lukidis, Lydia. *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine* ISBN: 978-0-9917402-7-7

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1. List five species of sharks that were mentioned in the article.



2.



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3. According to the article, about how many shark attacks happen each year? (Use a complete sentence.)

4. The article lists several examples of why people kill sharks. Circle the choice that is **not** mentioned in the article.

- a. Some people use shark skins like leather to make products.
- b. Some people hang sharks on their wall as a decoration.
- c. Some people make shark fin soup to eat.
- d. Some people make shark steak to eat.

5. What does it mean to say that sharks are **endangered**? (Use a complete sentence.)

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Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

_____ 1. respect

a. a bright flash of light in the sky



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_____ 5. assume

e. a type of material made from animal skin

_____ 6. predators

f. what most people think about someone or something

_____ 7. reputation

g. able to bend very easily without breaking

_____ 8. flexible

h. being one of a kind; set apart

_____ 9. skeleton

i. all the living things in an area and their interactions with each other and their nonliving environment

_____ 10. unique

j. animals that eat other animals to live

ANSWER KEY

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1. List five species of sharks that were mentioned in the article.

Five examples are the great white shark, hammerhead shark, bull shark, tiger shark, and mako.



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h. 10. unique

nonliving environment

j. animals that eat other animals to live