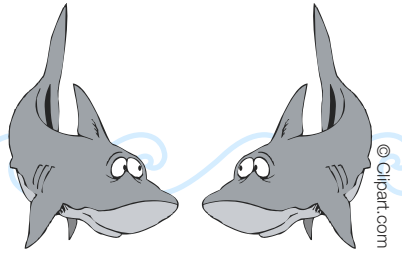


SHARK QUIZ

You probably know more about sharks than you think. Answer these true or false questions.

1. Sharks are fish. **T** or **F**



2. All sharks look the same. **T** or **F**



3. All sharks will eat anything. **T** or **F**

4. Sharks have very rough skin. **T** or **F**



5. Sharks are always gray. **T** or **F**

Answers
 1. True
 2. False
 3. False – Sharks are fussy eaters. Some eat other fish; others eat seals. The biggest shark eats very tiny sea plants and animals.
 4. True
 5. False – Many have colorful markings that help them hide. Others have parts that glow.



presented by **Science a-z** a division of Learning A-Z

Sharks: Dangerous or Endangered?

By Jane Sellman

Sharks are not dangerous. People are dangerous. That's the opinion of a new group, SHARKS. SHARKS stands for Sharks Have A Right to Keep Swimming, their spokesfish, Basking Shark, confirmed.

species, are very shy," she said. In addition, basking and whale sharks only eat plankton, tiny sea animals and plants.

See Sharks: Dangerous or Endangered? on page 2

"Sharks kill 6-12 people a year," said Basking. "But people kill 75 to 100 million sharks each year!"

By contrast, dogs bite about 4.7 million Americans each year, and they do not have the bad reputation that sharks have.

The great white, tiger, and bull sharks may attack people, said Basking. "Most shark



Write About This!

Why is the
fish on
the shark?



© iStockphoto, Ian Scott

Sharks: Dangerous or Endangered?

Continued from page 1

In fact, sharks may soon disappear from Earth! According to SHARKS, people are catching too many sharks. Sharks do not reproduce as quickly as other fish do. So they cannot replace all the sharks that are caught by humans each year.

"Many kinds of sharks may become extinct," said Spined Pygmy. If an animal becomes extinct, it disappears forever.

According to scientists, sharks are important to our **environment**. They are necessary to the balance of our **ecosystem**. Our ecosystem includes all living things. If one species dies, others may soon follow.

Basking Shark and Spined Pygmy Shark thanked scientists and other caring people who are finding ways to save sharks. Some of these people use satellites and cameras to watch over the sharks. They are passing laws to protect the sharks from people and their water pollution.

"People and sharks need each other," said Basking. "They should help each other."



© Clipart.com

Whale Sharks

Many **species**, or types of sharks are endangered. One is the whale shark, which is the largest shark, as well as the largest fish, in the world. It can be up to 40 feet long. It is harmless and usually ignores people.



© Georgia Aquarium, Zac Wolf

FUN FACTS!

Sharks are very old. They lived on the earth before dinosaurs. Most sharks appeared about 64 million years ago and lived during the time of the dinosaurs.

Some sharks will eat whatever is available. Others have favorite foods. The hammerhead shark likes to eat stingrays.



© Clipart.com

Sharks live in all kinds of water, from very warm tropical seas to cold water in the Atlantic. A few also live in rivers and lakes that have access to a sea or an ocean.

Cooks use shark fins to make a popular and expensive soup. Shark fin soup can cost \$400 a bowl!

Do You Know?

Shark babies are called pups.



© iStockphoto, Stefano Lonardi