

## Some Facts About Today's Sharks

1. Sharks are members of the fish family. They can have 5, 6, or 7 gills.
2. The largest fish in the ocean is the Whale Shark. It can grow to 50 feet long.
3. The fastest fish in the ocean is the Mako Shark. It has been known to give bursts of speed up to 50 miles per hour.
4. The smallest shark is the Spined Pygmy Shark. It is only 7 inches long.
5. Sharks have no bones in their bodies. Their skeleton is made up of cartilage. Cartilage is the same material as in your nose and ears.
6. Shark babies are born alive. They swim out of their mothers when they are born.
7. There are over 400 different kinds of sharks.
8. Some sharks can live in fresh water. One of these is the Bull Shark.
9. About 26 kinds of sharks can be found in North Carolina waters. Most come here when they are migrating. They may come to have their babies or to find warmer or cooler water.
10. Most sharks eat fish. Some eat crabs and squid. Some clean up the oceans by eating dead animals. Great White Sharks also eat seals. Large sharks will eat smaller ones.
11. The Whale Shark just opens it's huge mouth and lets food float into it.
12. Sharks don't have scales like bony fish. Their bodies are very rough.
13. The sharks liver takes up almost all it's body space. It is used to make Vitamin A.
14. Wide shark teeth are for cutting out chunks of food. The Great White has wide teeth. Narrow shark teeth are for catching food and swallowing it whole. The Mako Shark has narrow teeth. The Tiger Shark has teeth for grabbing and cutting.
15. Sharks can be identified by different colors and patterns on their bodies. The Great White Shark is gray and white. The Mako Shark is blue and white. The Tiger Shark has stripes. The Angel Shark has spots to hide it in the mud. The Whale Shark has large white spots.
16. Scientists are still finding new kinds of sharks.
17. Some sharks are in danger of becoming extinct. The Great White Shark and the Whale Shark are two of them.
18. Some sharks can jump up out of the water. The Mako Shark can jump 20 feet.
19. Stingrays and Skates are members of the shark family.
20. Some people fish for sharks and the meat is good to eat.