

SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium Sharks

Junior Shark Keeper Worksheet



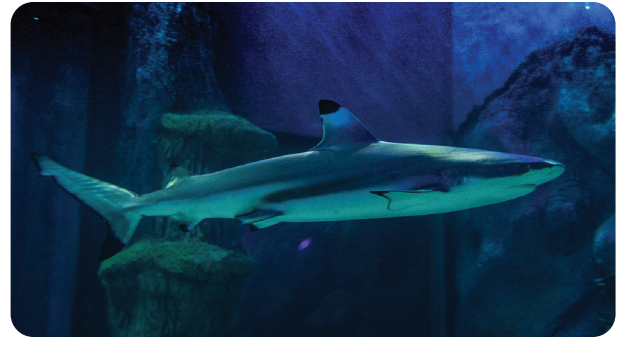
Grey Nurse Shark

Despite its fearsome appearance and rows of sharp teeth, the Grey Nurse shark offers no threat to humans and is, in fact, a superbly adapted fish-eater, usually swallowing its prey whole. During the 1960s and 1970s, the population of the Grey Nurse shark declined sharply and in 1984, they became the first shark species in the world to be awarded protected status. SEA LIFE Melbourne supports conservation measures to protect the species, such as through the establishment of marine parks where fishing is prohibited.



Black Reef Shark

The Blacktip Reef shark is habitually identified by its prominent black tips on its fins. This species can grow up to 120 centimetres in length and feeds on crustaceans and other small fish. They are typically found living within shallow, inshore waters over reef ledges and sandy flats of tropical and sub-tropical waters of the Indo-Pacific region. However, they sometimes appear within brackish and freshwater environments too.



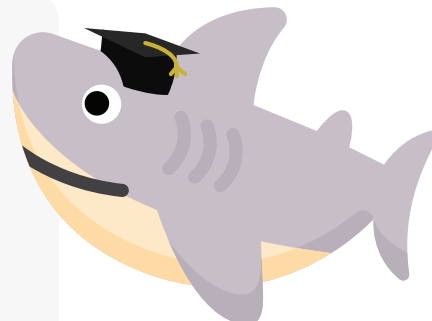
Whitetip Reef Shark

The Whitetip Reef shark is widely found across the Indo-Pacific region nestling near caves as well as the coral heads and ledges of coral reefs. Whitetips are more slender in body shape than other sharks, have oval-shaped eyes, characteristic white tipped fins and can grow up to 1.6 metres in length. Its diet consists of eels, octopus and crustaceans.



Take a guess YES or NO

1. Do sharks have bones? **Yes** | **No**
2. Sharks have two rows of teeth. **Yes** | **No**
3. Humans are more dangerous than sharks. **Yes** | **No**
4. Are sharks related to rays? **Yes** | **No**



1. NO. | Sharks have no bones! Their skeletons are made up of cartilage, the same stuff we can find inside our noses!
2. NO | Sharks don't just have one row of teeth; they have up to seven! Plus, they never stop growing new ones.
3. YES | Humans kill 100 million sharks a year - blue sharks are the most endangered species as they are overfished to make shark fin soup. There are only 6 fatal shark attacks on humans a year, on average.
4. YES | Sharks and rays belong to the class of vertebrates known as Chondrichthyes, whose skeletons are made of flexible cartilage rather than bones.

Answers

