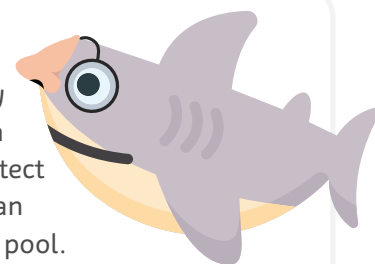# Shark Senses
Junior Shark Keeper Worksheet

Sight

Sharks have a mirror at the back of their eye known the tapetum lucidum, which reflects light back in to the retina making their eyes glow in the dark, and allows them to see well in the murky ocean depths.
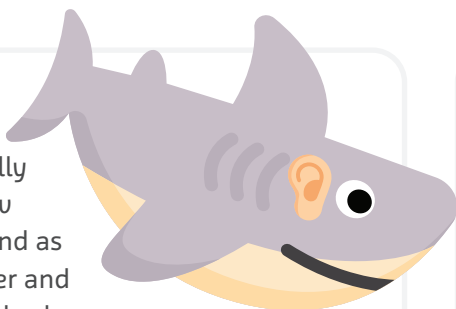
Smell

Sharks have an extremely keen sense of smell and a Great White Shark can detect a single drop of blood in an Olympic sized swimming pool.

Hearing

Sharks are specifically attuned to deep, low frequency sounds and as sound travels further and faster underwater, sharks can detect prey up to 250m away.

Taste

Unlike humans, the taste buds of a shark are situated throughout its mouth rather than on it's tongue, and a shark will often take a test bite to check that something is okay to eat.
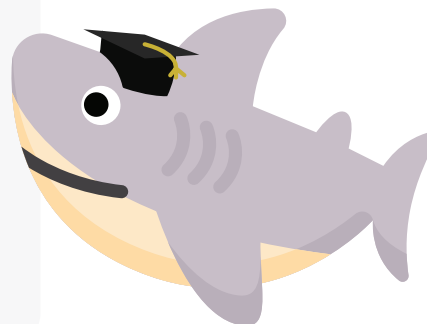
Touch

A shark's lateral line system allows it to feel its prey without actually touching it. When a fish moves it creates waves like ripples on a pond, which are picked up by a set of water filled tubes running in a line from its nose to its tail.

Electroreception

A sharks Ampullae of Lorenzini pores allow it to pick-up electrical pulses given off by potential prey and can number from a few hundred in more placid sharks, to well over 1000 in more active hunters.

Take a guess YES or NO

1. Can a shark see better in the dark than a cat? **Yes | No**

2. Are sharks the ultimate predator? **Yes | No**

3. Is a shark's bite stronger than a lion's? **Yes | No**

4. Are cows more deadly than sharks? **Yes | No**

Answers

1. YES | A shark's eyes are twice as effective as cats at seeing in the dark, and 10 times more effective than humans

2. YES | The combination of all six senses together, with their sleep torpedo-shaped body makes sharks the ultimate sea-going predator

3. YES | A 21-foot Great White Shark bite could produce a force of almost 4000 pounds per square inch (psi), compared to a lion at 1000 psi

4. YES | Cows kill about 22 people a year on average, compared to an average of 6 fatal shark attacks