

SHARK SPECIES

READING PASSAGES

MEET THE BASKING SHARK!
The basking shark has one big mouth! They have about 1500 teeth inside!
Basking sharks are one of the largest fish in the world. They may look big and scary, but basking sharks are actually gentle.

MEET THE BLUE SHARK!
Blue sharks are long fish that have two dorsal fins on their backs. They have a beautiful, deep blue color. You might also hear them called blue dog sharks.
Many sharks like to swim near the coasts or on coral reefs. The blue shark prefers the cool, deep ocean water. They are fast swimmers and can even jump out of the water!

MEET THE HAMMERHEAD!
Hammerhead sharks get their name from their unique head shape! It's so unique that it has a special name, just for hammerheads. Their head shape is called a **cephalofoil**.
There are nine hammerhead species.
Hammerheads have a unique shape. This helps them swim faster and catch their prey. When they are in the water, their heads are flat. This helps them catch their prey.
Hammerhead sharks are found all around the world. They are found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.
Hammerhead sharks are found all around the world. They are found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.

MEET THE GREAT WHITE!
Great white sharks are one of the biggest shark species! They are gray on top and have a white belly. They are found all around the world.
Great white sharks are faster than most other shark species. They can swim up to 22 mph. They are found all around the world.
Great white sharks prefer to eat seals and sea lions. They are found all around the world.
Sometimes, great white sharks attack humans. They are found all around the world.

MEET THE THRESHER SHARK!
Thresher sharks are used to speed because they have a very long tail. The tail can equal half the thresher shark's total body length. Their bodies are brown and dark gray. Their bellies are white.
Thresher sharks live in tropical and temperate waters around the world. They usually swim near the surface, but they do sometimes swim in deeper waters also.
They eat schooling fish or squid. Thresher sharks often use their long tail fins to smack and stun their prey. Stunned prey is alive, but it cannot move or swim away. Slurping the prey makes it easier for the thresher fish to eat bits of fish at one time.
Thresher sharks are not considered dangerous to humans. All three species of thresher sharks are **vulnerable** or **endangered** due to **overfishing**. Thresher sharks are caught for human food. They are also caught as **bycatch** which means they were just caught in fishing nets meant to catch other fish.

MEET THE NURSE SHARK!
There are many species of nurse shark. Some are **endangered** and some are not. They live in warm, tropical waters and around coral reefs.
Nurse sharks have two fleshy extensions near their nose called **buzzles**. The buzzles help them sense prey.
Nurse sharks are **bottom feeders**, which means they eat animals that can be found on the bottom of the sea. This includes crustaceans like crabs, lobsters, and shrimp. They will also eat smaller fish, clams, and oyster coral.
Nurse sharks are slow swimmers. They are gentle and calm. They are not considered dangerous to humans.
Most shark species they need the water to breathe. This means they can't live out of the water.

MEET THE WHALE SHARK!
Whale sharks are the world's largest shark and the world's largest fish! They can be as long as a school bus!
Whale sharks are easy to recognize because they are so large. They have dark bodies with white spots and lines on their backs. They live in warm, tropical waters.

MEET THE SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK!
Shortfin mako sharks are fast swimmers with sharp teeth! They can swim up to 20 mph, and they are believed to be the fastest sharks in the world.
Mako sharks have large black eyes. This helps them hunt for prey in low light, either at night or in deeper waters.
Mako sharks are declining in number. This is due to overfishing, especially because humans like eating mako meat in **shark fin soup**.
Mako sharks eat tuna, mackerel, and swordfish. They sometimes eat small dolphins and small whales, too.
Mako are prized by fishermen who love a challenge! Mako are fast, sleek, can leap out of the water, and put up a good fight when they are caught. It is not easy to catch a mako!

MEET THE BULL SHARK!
Bull sharks are a dangerous shark species. They are found in warm, shallow waters.
Bull sharks are found in warm, shallow waters. They are found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.
Bull sharks are found in warm, shallow waters. They are found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. What is the name of the shark?
2. Where do nurse sharks live?
3. What do nurse sharks eat?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. Where do nurse sharks live?
2. Where are the nurse shark's buzzles?
3. What do nurse sharks eat?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. How fast are mako sharks?
2. Are mako sharks dangerous to humans?
3. Why are mako sharks declining in number?
4. What do mako sharks eat?
5. Why do fishermen love catching mako sharks?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. What does the shark species are most dangerous to humans?
2. Why are bull sharks declining in number?
3. Why is it important to protect bull sharks?
4. How are bull sharks unique?
5. Why are bull sharks more likely to encounter humans?

GRADES
4-5

10 PDF Reading Passages



10 READING PASSAGES

MEET THE BASKING SHARK!

The basking shark has one big mouth! They have about 1500 teeth inside!

Basking sharks are one of the largest fish in the world. They may look big and scary, but basking sharks are gentle. Humans can swim around them.

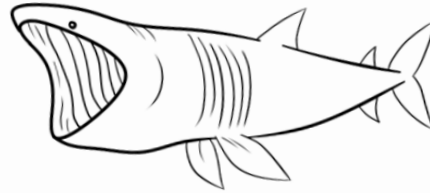
Basking sharks keep their mouths open wide to catch tiny sea creatures called plankton.

Plankton is so small that you cannot see it without a microscope. Basking sharks love to eat plankton!

Basking sharks move the ocean water through their mouth to catch plankton. This process is called filter-feeding.

Only three shark species are filter-feeders. They are the basking shark, the whale shark, and the megamouth.

All three of these sharks are very large. They need to eat lots

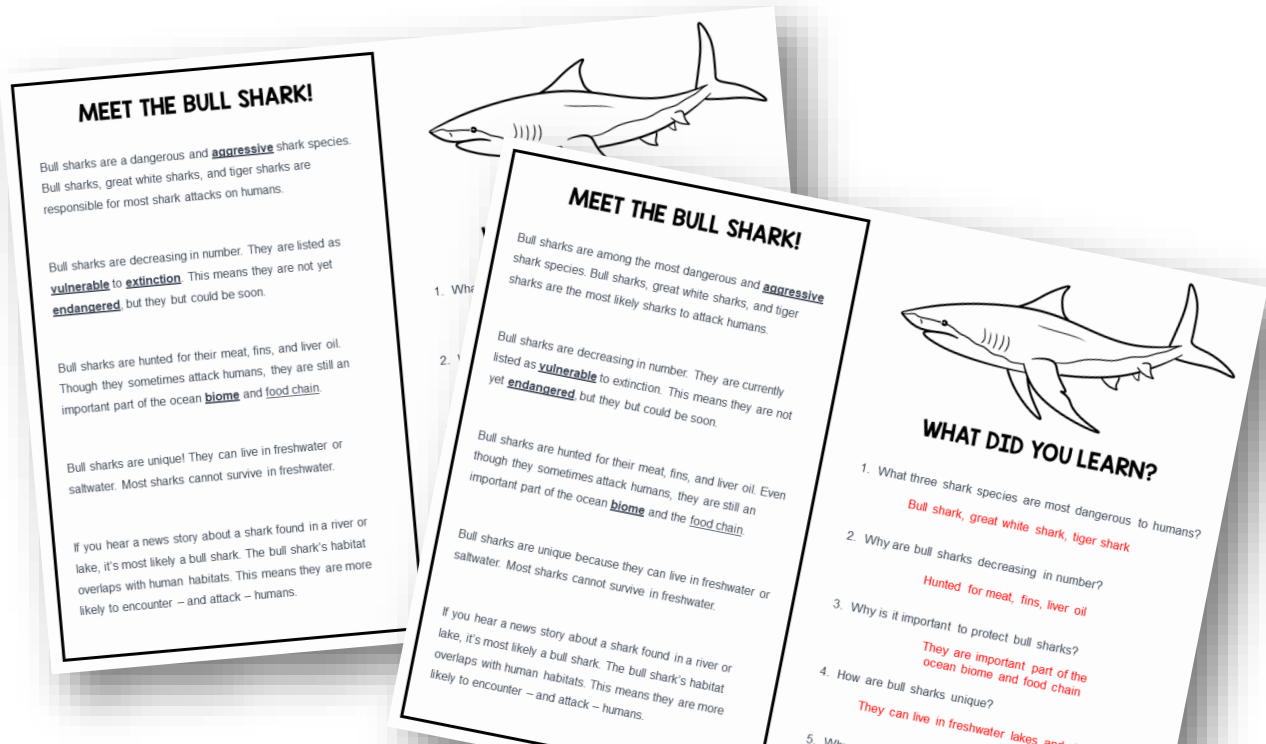


WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. How large are basking sharks?
2. How many teeth do basking sharks have?
3. Are basking sharks dangerous to human swimmers?
4. What do basking sharks eat?
5. How many species of filter-feeding sharks are there?

All 10 reading passages
feature different species of sharks.

INCLUDES QUESTIONS & ANSWER KEYS



Each reading passage includes five comprehension questions about that shark.

FEATURES 10 SHARKS

MEET THE GREAT WHITE SHARK!

Great white sharks are one of the biggest sharks in the ocean! They are gray on top and have a white belly. This helps them hide from their prey.

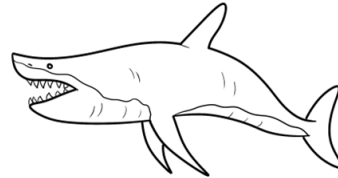
Great white sharks are super fast swimmers and can jump out of the water! The jumping out of the water is called a breach. They often attack their prey from underneath.

Great white sharks love to eat seals, sea lions, and dolphins.

Great white sharks prefer cooler water, but they can be found all around the world.

Great white sharks have about 3000 very sharp teeth!

Sometimes, great white sharks bite humans. This is rare, and the great white is not doing it to be mean. Usually, a great white shark bites because it thinks the human is its prey.



WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. What color is the top and bottom of a great white shark?
2. How do great white sharks attack their prey?
3. What do great white sharks eat?
4. How many teeth do great white sharks have?
5. Why do great white sharks sometimes bite humans?

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- basking shark
- great white shark
- bull shark
- tiger shark
- blue shark
- shortfin mako shark
- whale shark
- hammerhead
- nurse shark
- thresher shark

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TRIVIA QUESTION

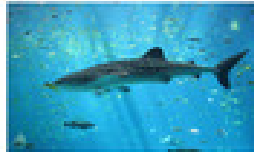
Which shark is the world's largest?



great white shark



basking shark



whale shark

GRADES
1-4

"Sharks!"

