



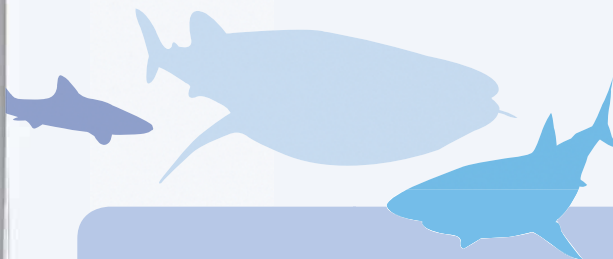
Shark Eyes

Sharks have good eyesight and can see colors. Their eyes are protected by a nictitating (nik'tī-tā'tīng) membrane that moves up and down like an eyelid.

What Are Sharks' Natural Enemies?

Large sharks sometimes eat smaller sharks, and killer whales also dine on sharks. But the shark's greatest enemy is people. Humans kill sharks for food, use their skins for leather, make medicine from their liver oil, and use shark teeth for jewelry. Many sharks are killed senselessly for sport or get trapped and die in fishing nets. And it takes a long time for shark populations to rebound. Most shark species take ten years to reach reproductive age and produce small litters of less than a dozen pups.

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Bite-Size Facts

- The first sharks appeared in the ancient oceans about 400 million years ago—200 million years before the dinosaurs!
- Sharks are carnivores (meat-eaters). Most gobble their prey whole or rip it into large, shark-size bites.
- Most sharks are found in the ocean but some, like the bull shark, also swim in lakes and rivers. Most shark attacks occur in warm waters—20° to 30°C (68° to 86°F).
- Sharks lack the inflatable swim bladder that allows bony fish to control **buoyancy**. Most sharks must swim endlessly. If they stop, they sink to the bottom and may drown from a lack of water flowing over the gills. **J**

buoyancy (boi'ən-sē)
n. the ability to remain afloat in liquid

J TEXT FEATURES

The Bite-Size Facts are organized in a **bulleted list**. Why do you think writers use bulleted lists to present information?