

Name: _____

Hammerhead Sharks

By Guy Belleranti

When they hear the word *shark* many people think of the great white shark. While this shark is the largest and most ferocious fish in the sea, there is another shark I find equally interesting. This shark is the hammerhead shark.

Actually there are nine different species or types of hammerhead sharks. The smallest is only three feet long. The largest, the great hammerhead, can grow to nearly 20 feet. What makes all nine so interesting is their flat hammer-

shaped heads, with an eye on each end of the "hammer". This large spacing between eyes gives the hammerhead shark a much wider field of vision than other sharks. Such vision is great for spotting prey.

What kind of prey do they hunt? Other fish including smaller hammerheads, squid, octopuses, crustaceans are all commonly eaten. And, of course, there's also the

ham
hea
trian
its he
ham



~ **PREVIEW** ~

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

ors in
p a

Like all sharks, hammerheads have a great sense of smell. They have a pair of nares, which are like nostrils, right below their snout. Once a shark picks up the scent of its prey, it can follow the smell for many miles until it finds its meal.

Most fish lay eggs. Sharks are the exception because their young are born alive.

Mother hammerhead sharks give birth to as many as 40 or 50 young, or pups.

During the day, hammerhead sharks swim in schools. At night, they usually hunt alone.



ham
hum
ham
they
atta



PREVIEW

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

ough

Concern has grown in recent years about the fading numbers of some hammerhead shark species. One reason they have become endangered is overfishing. The hammerheads' extra tall dorsal fin is considered a delicacy and is used to make shark fin soup in some parts of the world.



About the Author

Guy Belleranti works as a docent at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences working with wild animals and teaching others.

Name: _____

Hammerhead Sharks

By Guy Belleranti

1. List 5 things a hammerhead shark eats.



2. What does a hammerhead shark use its nares for?

- a. swimming faster
- b. chewing food
- c. smelling prey
- d. detecting vibrations of prey

3. Hammerhead sharks...

- a. lay eggs
- b. do not lay eggs
- c. do not have eyes
- d. are herbivores

4.



~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

5. How many species of hammerheads are there? _____

How many hammerhead species are dangerous to humans? _____

Write the names of the hammerhead species that are dangerous to humans.

Name: _____

Hammerhead Sharks

By Guy Belleranti



The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. _____ t i s p n t o g
hint: seeing; catching a glimpse of

2. _____ t c e d e t
hint: find; sense

3. _____ o n t i v r a i b s
hint: continuing, fast movements

4. _____

5. _____



~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

6. _____ s i o n v i
hint: ability to see

7. _____ s p p u
hint: young dogs or sharks

ANSWER KEY

Hammerhead Sharks

By Guy Belleranti

1. List 5 things a hammerhead shark eats.



2

3

4

5



~ **PREVIEW** ~

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

ANSWER KEY

Hammerhead Sharks

By Guy Belleranti



The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



~ PREVIEW ~

Please log in or register to download
the printable version of this worksheet.