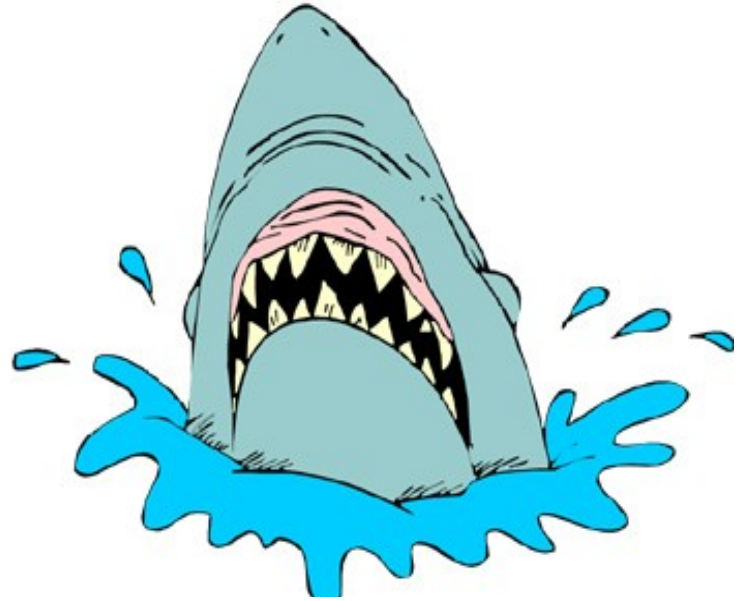


Name: _____

Great White Sharks

by Erin Ryan

The great white shark is one of the most recognizable sharks in the world. The only shark larger than a great white is the whale shark. Great white sharks have been found in each of the world's oceans. Even though they have been spotted in waters as shallow as three feet (one meter) deep, these sharks spend most of their time in deep coastal waters.



The great white shark is related to the prehistoric Megalodon shark, which grew to over sixty-five feet (20 meters).

Some of the largest sharks found have been over 30 feet long. Like the hammerhead, the great white has a huge triangular dorsal fin and sharp teeth like knives. The teeth are about three inches long. When the teeth break off or wear out, new teeth grow in to replace them.



~ PREVIEW ~

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One of the most noticeable features of the great white is the dorsal fin which rises out of the water when a great white swims near the surface of the ocean. The fins on either side of the shark are called pectoral fins and they help to direct the shark closer to the surface or deeper into sea. The shark's tail is powered by very strong muscles. It sweeps the tail side to side and can reach speeds of up to fifteen miles per hour (twenty-four kilometers per hour), and can have sudden powerful bursts of speed up to twenty-five miles per hour (forty kilometers per hour).

receptors in its skin that detect electrical pulses from their skin that can be used to detect water. The shark can also detect the fish, squid,

seals, sea lions, dolphins, and turtles. When a great white shark is feeding, it can roll back its eyes to protect them.

Because great white sharks are so dangerous, little is known about them in the wild. Great white sharks have never been kept in captivity for longer than seven months, so scientists are unsure how long they live. It is believed that their life span is almost thirty years.

The great white shark is the most feared predator of the ocean, by people and by sea creatures alike!

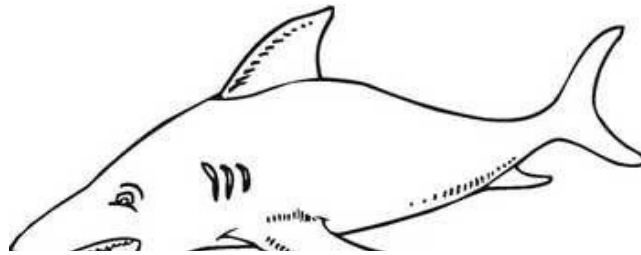
Name: _____

Great White Sharks

by Erin Ryan

1. Which fact about a great white shark's size is **not** true?
- a. Megalodon sharks grew much bigger than great white sharks.
 - b. Great white sharks are not the largest sharks in the world today.
 - c. Great white sharks grow as large as Megalodon sharks.
 - d. Whale sharks grow bigger than great white sharks.

2. On the picture to the right, label the shark's dorsal fin, pectoral fin, and tail.



3. Explain



~ PREVIEW ~

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4. First, find the vocabulary words below in the article and highlight them. Then, match the vocabulary words on the left to the correct definitions on the right.

_____ carnivore

_____ vibrations

_____ serrated

_____ captivity

_____ receptor

a. sensor for feeling things

b. a confined place out of the wild

c. notched and jagged like a saw

d. animal that eats other animals

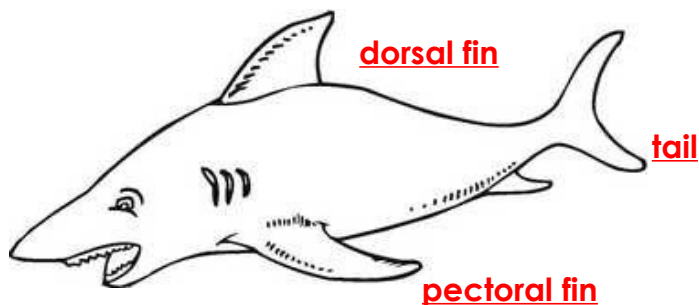
e. slight movements

Great White Sharks

by Erin Ryan

1. Which fact about a great white shark's size is **not** true? **c**
- a. Megalodon sharks grew much bigger than great white sharks.
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 - c. **Great white sharks grow as large as Megalodon sharks.**
 - d. Whale sharks grow bigger than great white sharks.

2. On the picture to the right, label the shark's dorsal fin, pectoral fin, and tail.



3. Explain

Its snou
Its skin



~ PREVIEW ~

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d carnivore

a. sensor for feeling things

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c serrated

c. notched and jagged like a saw

b captivity

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a receptor

e. slight movements