



# SHARKS

Where sharks live

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# Where sharks live



- Sharks are found in seas and oceans around the world. They are almost all marine fish.
- They are most common around coasts. Many species live in shallow sandy bays, near coral reefs or in the medium- deep water a few kilometers from the shore.
- Species that live in the open ocean, such as blue sharks and great whites, are known as pelagic sharks.
- Sharks living on the ocean floor are called benthic sharks.
- Lots of species live in warm waters, but a few, such as the Greenland shark, inhabit cold water around the Arctic.

# Where sharks live



- Cold water sharks, such as the grilled shark and goblin shark, often live in very deep water.
- Some sharks are warm-blooded. This means they can control their body temperature, so they are able to live in a greater variety of water temperatures than other sharks. The great white shark is warm-blooded.
- The great white shark has an inner heating system, which recycles body heat and keeps the shark warmer than the water around it.

# Shallows to the deep



- Different species of sharks live at different levels in the oceans, from the warm surface waters to the cold ocean depths.
- The mackerel and requiem shark families cruise the sunlit surface waters looking for prey. These sharks include mako sharks, porbeagle sharks, tiger sharks and bull sharks.
- Basking sharks and whale sharks swim near to the surface in order to scoop up floating plankton.
- Catsharks and prickly sharks live at middle depths in the ocean, in water below about 1000 m.

# Shallows to the deep



- Spiny dogfish and poreagle sharks spend the winter sheltering in deep water, but they move to shallow waters near the coast in spring and autumn.



Sixgill sharks have large eyes to help them capture as much light as possible in deep, dark waters.

# Shallows to the deep

- Living on the deep-sea floor are sixgill, sevengill and sleeper sharks. They eat the food that sinks down from the surface of the sea.



# Shallows to the deep



- Many deep-sea sharks, such as the dwarf shark and the velvet belly lantern shark, glow in the dark and have huge green eyes to help them find food in the deep, dark water.







# Life on the bottom



- Nurse sharks, swellsharks or catsharks, rest during the day and come out at night to hunt.



# Nurse Shark



**SHARK**  
**ACADEMY**

# Life on the bottom

- Wobbegong sharks look just like the rock, coral and seaweed on the sea bed, which enables them to make surprise attacks on fish and other sea creatures.



# Wobbegong shark



**SHARK  
ACADEMY**

# Life on the bottom



- Sharks that live on the bottom often have strong fins to help them clamber about on the sea bed or lift themselves up above the sea floor.
- Saw sharks use their long, barbed snouts to dig up food from the sea bed.
- Bottom-dwelling sharks sometimes have sensitive feelers, called barbels, to help them locate food.

# Tropics to poles



- Most of top shark hunters, such as blue sharks or oceanic whitetip sharks, thrive in tropical oceans where the water is warmer than 21 °C.
- Temperate water sharks, such as mako sharks, basking sharks and horn sharks, live in cooler waters, with temperatures ranging from 10-20 °C.
- Where water temperatures are lower than 10°C, fewer sharks are able to survive and they move more slowly.
- **The Greenland shark** is the only shark that survives under the polar ice in the North Atlantic Ocean, which grows slowly, but it reaches a large size of 6.5m and may live for 100 years or more.

# Reef sharks

- Many species of shark live on or around coral reefs because of the warm waters, and the variety of food and places to shelter. They patrol along the edge of the reef, ready to catch day hunting fish returning to the safety of the reef at night.





# Blacktip reef shark



# Whitetip shark



# Grey reef shark



- Grey reef shark use body language, such as arching their backs and pointing their front fins down, to warn rivals to keep away from their patch of coral reef.



# Grey reef shark

