SHARKS - THE POINT OF TEETH

EDUCATION

INCREDIBLE JAWS

Brinking the Sea To You

Shark jaws are the most powerful jaws on earth. Unlike most other animals, the upper and lower jaws work independently of one another – sharks bite with the lower jaw first and then the upper jaw - making their jaws formidable weapons. When eating large prey, sharks toss their head back and forth to tear pieces of meat loose which they then swallow whole, generally without chewing.

TREMENDOUS TEETH

Different shark species have teeth that are shaped depending on their diet. Sharks have multiple rows of teeth (usually about five rows) and some may produce up to 30,000 teeth in a lifetime. When one tooth is lost, another rotates forward from the rows of backup teeth.

LARGE PREDATORY SHARKS

Some sharks have teeth that are very sharp, wide, and triangular-shaped with a serrated (jagged edge), designed for catching and tearing apart prey. These include sharks found in Australian water such as Great White, Tiger, Hammerhead and Bull Sharks.

GREAT WHITE (WHITE POINTER) SHARK

Take a look at this photo of a Great White. You can tell this is a carnivore that eats tough meat by the triangular, serrated teeth which are perfect for biting off large chunks of flesh from big fish and mammals such as seals and whales.

TIGER SHARK

These fierce hunters have large pointed, serrated teeth for a variety of medium to large open-ocean prey, from medium fish to dolphin and even turtles!

LEMON SHARK

Species like Lemon and Mako sharks which are often found in Australian waters, have thin, pointy, sharp teeth that are ideal for tearing and gripping a variety of small to medium sized fish and rays.

PORT JACKSON SHARK

Many bottom dwelling sharks such as these have thick cone-shaped or flattened teeth in the back of their mouths. These are used for crushing small ocean dwelling creatures found near rocks and on sand such as crabs, shellfish, urchins and prawns.

WHALE SHARKS - filter feeders

Although its mouth can stretch to four feet wide, a whale shark's teeth are tiny. These sharks are filter feeders and can neither bite not chew. Whale sharks use their gill rakers as a suction filter, taking in huge volumes of water through their mouth and extracting food such as small shrimp, fish and plankton from it. Basking sharks and Megamouth sharks also feed in this way.

WHY WE NEED SHARKS

As APEX predators, sharks sit at the top of the food chain and help maintain a healthy balance of life in the sea and a healthy ocean. By controlling numbers of large and midsized predators, they allow smaller fish to thrive and ensure a healthy ecosystem with a diverse range of species and competitors.



Tiger Shark

hale Shark 1

HOW CAN I PROTECT SHARKS?

- Educate yourself and your friends
- Share your love of sharks on social media
- Don't buy fish marked 'flake' it's shark
- Join a volunteer shark conservation organisation

EDUCATE - INSPIRE - PROTECT

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