

5 Shark attack

Summary

There are many different types of shark and some can be quite dangerous. We see divers and scientists interacting with sharks, taking the necessary precautions and then finally encountering a Greenland shark with some unusual features.

Background

Films and media reports help sustain the idea that sharks are rapacious killers, but in reality shark attacks on human beings are rare.

Before you watch

1 Answer the question.

- Ask the class: *Can you think of the names of any sharks?* Elicit student's answers. Accept answers in L1.
- Write students' answers on the board.

Suggested answers

great white shark, hammerhead shark, tiger shark

While you watch

2 Watch and find out.

- Tell students they are going to watch a video about scientists researching sharks.
- Ask students to watch the video to find out which shark the scientists find.
- Play the video.

Answers

a Greenland shark

3 Watch and choose.

- Write the following on the board:
 - The *sand / whale* shark is very big.
 - The *hammerhead / sand* shark is very different.
 - Greenland sharks live in the *Pacific / Atlantic* Ocean.
 - Greenland sharks can be around *4 / 7* metres long.
 - Greenland sharks have *big / small* teeth.
- Play the video again. Students watch and choose the correct answers. Check answers with the class.

Answers

1 whale 2 hammerhead 3 Atlantic 4 7 5 small

After you watch

4 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.

- Put students into pairs to answer the questions:
 - Which is your favourite shark from the video?
 - Which animals are you most interested in?
- Ask some students to report back to the class on their partner's ideas.

At home

5 Write about a day in a submarine.

- Tell students to imagine that they are scientists investigating sharks and write about their investigation, e.g. *It's a sunny day and we're searching for sharks.*
- Students read out their descriptions in pairs at the beginning of the next lesson.

6 Find out about other sea creatures.

- Ask students to find out how long the following animals live in the wild, their size, and anything else about the animals that interests them:
 - blue whale
 - bottlenose dolphin
 - harp seal
- Students can share what they learn with a partner at the beginning of the next class.

Background

Blue whales live up to 90 years in the wild. They can be up to 32 metres in length and are the largest animals on Earth.

Bottlenose dolphins live up to 50 years in the wild. They can be up to 4.2 metres in length and eat fish.

Harp seals live around 20 years in the wild. They live in the North Atlantic and Arctic oceans. They can be up to 2.2 metres in length.



Shark Attack!

Sharks are amazing animals. Some of them are really big, for example, the whale shark. Some are small. Can you see the sand shark?

And some are very strange. This hammerhead shark is really different!

Big, small, or strange—sharks can be dangerous.

You can see lots of sharks in warm ocean waters ... But what about in cold waters? What lives deep in the ocean?

Today two scientists are exploring the ocean in a special submarine...

It's dark and cold in these waters. Suddenly, they see something *very strange* ...

Hey! Look at that...

... Don't come through here

Uh, don't hit that! Oh dear!

I'd say he was, er, three to four feet broad across his head ...

...Oh, oh-ho!...

...and 14 to 16 feet long.

I'd say he was, uh, 3 to 4 feet broad, across his head...["Whuh-oh!"] and 14 to 16 feet long."

It's a Greenland Shark. Greenland Sharks live in the Atlantic Ocean ... between Greenland and New York. They can be about seven metres long, and they like living in deep, cold water. They can go 400 to 600 metres deep in the ocean. A lot of Greenland sharks can't see.

They're blind because small creatures grow on their eyes. The creatures are like worms. These sharks find food with their good sense of smell. And they catch it with their small, sharp teeth! *Occasionally, they eat really, really big meals er...and often, ah, they'll eat each other as a good meal.*

But he doesn't find any food this time. The scientists can return to land now. What an unusual shark!