



# Sharks

Reading Worksheet — Level C | [tahricteaches.com](http://tahricteaches.com)

Sharks are one of the oldest animals on Earth. They have lived in the oceans for more than 400 million years—longer than dinosaurs! There are more than 500 different **species** of sharks in the world. They can be found in oceans all around the world, from warm tropical waters to cold polar seas.

Sharks are very good **hunters**. Most sharks eat fish, squid, and other sea animals. Sharks have rows of sharp teeth that fall out and grow back throughout their lives. Some sharks, like the whale shark, do not eat meat. Instead, they swim with their mouths open and filter tiny animals called plankton from the water.

Many people are afraid of sharks, but sharks rarely **attack** people. Most sharks do not see humans as food. In fact, more people are hurt by dogs each year than by sharks. Movies have given sharks a very scary image, but most species are not dangerous to people. Sharks are important, not scary.

Sharks are very important to the ocean's **ecosystem**. They sit at the top of the food chain and help keep other animal populations balanced. Without sharks, some fish and sea animals would become too numerous, which could damage the ocean environment. Healthy shark populations lead to healthy oceans.

Today, many species of sharks are in **danger**. Millions of sharks are caught every year for their fins, meat, and oil. Shark fins are used to make a popular soup in some parts of Asia. Overfishing and habitat loss are making shark populations drop quickly. Protecting sharks is important for the health of all the world's oceans.

## A. Vocabulary

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|---------------------|--|
| 1. species ____     | a. tiny animals and plants that float in the ocean                     |
| 2. hunters ____     | b. to separate small things from water by passing it through something |
| 3. attack ____      | c. catching too many fish, leaving too few left in the ocean           |
| 4. ecosystem ____   | d. all the living things in an area and how they depend on each other  |
| 5. danger ____      | e. the natural environment where an animal or plant lives              |
| 6. plankton ____    | f. a group of animals or plants that are the same kind                 |
| 7. population ____  | g. animals that search for and catch other animals for food            |
| 8. overfishing ____ | h. to try to hurt someone or something                                 |
| 9. habitat ____     | i. the possibility of being hurt or harmed                             |
| 10. filter ____     | j. the total number of animals or people in a place                    |

## B. True or False

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- \_\_\_ 1. Sharks have been on Earth for more than 400 million years.
- \_\_\_ 2. There are only about 50 species of sharks in the world.
- \_\_\_ 3. Whale sharks eat large fish and meat.
- \_\_\_ 4. Sharks attack people very often, according to the article.
- \_\_\_ 5. Sharks help keep the ocean ecosystem balanced.
- \_\_\_ 6. Without sharks, some fish populations could grow too large.
- \_\_\_ 7. Shark fins are used to make soup in some parts of Asia.
- \_\_\_ 8. Sharks are only found in warm tropical oceans.
- \_\_\_ 9. Overfishing is causing shark populations to decrease.
- \_\_\_ 10. Protecting sharks is important for healthy oceans.

## C. Fill in the Blanks

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**Word Bank:** species, hunters, attack, ecosystem, danger, plankton, population, overfishing

- 1. There are more than 500 \_\_\_\_\_ of sharks in the world.
- 2. Sharks are skilled ocean \_\_\_\_\_ that eat fish and squid.
- 3. Whale sharks eat tiny animals called \_\_\_\_\_ from the water.
- 4. Sharks rarely \_\_\_\_\_ people because they do not see humans as food.
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ has caused shark numbers to fall quickly in recent years.



## D. Comprehension Questions

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- 1. Why are sharks important to the ocean ecosystem?
- 2. Why does the article say that sharks are not as scary as many people think?
- 3. What are two reasons shark populations are decreasing today?

## E. Discussion Questions

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- 1. Why do you think so many people are afraid of sharks? Is this fair?
- 2. What can people do to help protect sharks and other ocean animals?

# Answer Key

## Sharks | Level C

*Teacher Reference Only | tahricteaches.com*

Source: tahricteaches.com

**A. Vocabulary:** 1-f, 2-g, 3-h, 4-d, 5-i, 6-a, 7-j, 8-c, 9-e, 10-b

**B. True/False:** 1-T, 2-F, 3-F, 4-F, 5-T, 6-T, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T, 10-T

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-species, 2-hunters, 3-plankton, 4-attack, 5-overfishing

**D. Comprehension:**

1. They sit at the top of the food chain and keep other animal populations balanced.
2. Because sharks rarely attack people, and more people are hurt by dogs than by sharks each year.
3. Overfishing and habitat loss.