

# Sharks

Sharks have rough skin and they cannot fold their fins. Sharks have strong jaws (mouths) and many have sharp teeth, but some have flat grinding teeth. Sharks have a fantastic sense of smell and can sniff out food from huge distances. There are about 350 types of shark; they include some of the largest fish in the world.



Great white shark.

## How do great whites find their food?

When the great white shark is close to another animal, it can sense electrical currents made by the animal's body. When they are further away, it has a powerful sense of smell that can track the scent (smell) of fish from a great distance. Great whites have good eye-sight. They see well in the dark and have a good sense of hearing.

## Which is the fastest shark?

The short-finned Mako shark is the fastest shark. It is very streamlined and agile (quick). It is thought by some that it can travel up to 70 miles per hour. It eats other fish such as tuna, which are also some of the fastest swimming fish.

## Why do hammerhead sharks have a funny shaped head?

There are lots of thoughts about why hammerhead sharks have strange shaped heads. Some think it is to help the shark move through the water. Others think it helps their sense of smell – most hammerheads have nostrils on the outer tips of their heads.



Hammerhead shark.

## **Did you know...**

- Whale sharks can grow over 14 metres in length.
- Hammerheads grow up to 4 metres long and are found in warm seas.
- The world's largest fish is the whale shark.
- The longest known great white is 6 metres.