

# SHARK FACTS

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Volume I



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Truth about Great Whites REVEALED!

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What to do when he's after YOU!

All articles by Victoria Romo

**Shark Fact:** A big meal, such as a seal or sea lion, can satisfy a great white for up to 2 months.

## WHY SHARKS?

I'm not sure why I love sharks. When I was a baby I was scared of them. Even pictures made me cry! But somehow, I became fascinated by them. When I grow up, I want to be a marine Biologist and specialize in the study of sharks!

I love the many different species of sharks and their fluid motion as they move through the water. I am happy every time a marine biologist or scientist disproves another negative myth about these creatures. Especially when they clear the reputation of one of my favorites, the Great White Shark.

In this magazine, I will give shark facts, and there will be a quiz at the end just for fun!

Enjoy!

## ABOUT THE COVER

This is a picture of a Great White Shark breaching off the coast of Africa. While no one is sure why whales breach, Great Whites have a reason! He's hunting a Sea Lion. Once the prey is confused the shark will attack! He attacks from below at great speed. This will knock the sea lion up in the air. Once it hits the water it's chow time!

Sharks also eat sea birds and have been filmed breaking the water's surface to snatch them out of they air as they try to fly

## Just the facts Please!

The Great White Shark is also known as *Carcharodon carcharias*. This comes from the Greek words *carcharos*, meaning "ragged," and *odon* for "tooth." It can grow nearly 25 feet long and weigh up to 3,000 pounds. Like all sharks, it's skeleton is composed of cartilage, the same stuff that makes up our noses and ears. It is an apex predator meaning that it is at the top of the food chain with no natural predators and is the ONLY Apex predator that has not been kept in captivity by man.

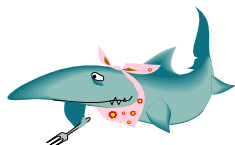
Sharks like all other fish breathe through their gills, and Great Whites like many of their shark brothers must keep moving or they will drown! They also have a set of nostrils on their noses. These help them pick up electrical impulses given off by fish and other prey in the water. Prey in that's in trouble will splash around and give off stronger impulses, this is like a dinner bell for a hungry Great White!

The Great White Shark is not the man eater movies have made it out to be! Most shark attacks on humans are a mistake. After one bite of human flesh they will spit it out. Sharks prefer to dine on Sea Lions, rays and various other fish. They are lazy and will eat something dead or dying before attacking something healthy. They rarely get sick and are believed to live long lives. The biggest threat to the Great White is man.

Sharks have been around for about 400 million years. Because of foolish people fishing carelessly, hunting for jawbones, teeth, and fins, their numbers are shrinking. People now and us kids when we get older must protect the sea's cherished creatures for the future.

**Shark Fact:** In the past 15 years, Great Whites Numbers have decreased by 79%. They are now classified as "Vulnerable to Extinction"

# Shark Smart



## Dinner is NOT served!

There are about 75 attacks on humans each year from sharks, and only a few are from Great Whites! . Only about 10 people will die from these attacks. You have a better chance of dying from a bee sting , a dog or snake bite. You have a better chance of being struck by lightning! Beware the deadly coconut! Falling coconuts kill 15 times more people per year than sharks!

If you are still scared of hitting the water here are a few tips that you can be useful.....

**1. Always swim in a group.** Sharks most often attack single prey.

**2. Don't wander too far from shore.** Doing so makes it hard to reach help quickly.

**3. Avoid the water at night, dawn, or dusk.** Many sharks are most active at these times and are better able to find you than you are to see them.

**4. Don't enter the water if bleeding.** Sharks can smell and taste blood from far away and it attracts them!

**5. Don't wear shiny jewelry.** The reflected light looks like shining fish scales.

**6. Don't go into waters containing sewage.** Sewage attracts bait fishes, which attract sharks.

**7. Avoid waters being fished and those with lots of bait fishes.** Diving seabirds are a good way to tell. If the area attracts them it will also attract sharks.

**8. Don't enter the water if sharks are present.** Leave immediately if sharks are seen.

**9. Avoid an uneven tan and brightly colored clothing.** Sharks see contrast well, so use extra caution when waters are cloudy.

**10. Don't splash a lot.** Also, keep pets out of the water. Lots of movement can attract sharks.

**11. Use care near sandbars or steep drop-offs.** These are favorite hangouts for sharks.

**12. Don't relax just because porpoises are nearby.** Sightings of porpoises do not mean the absence of sharks. Both often eat the same foods.

**13. Don't try to touch a shark if you see one!**

**SHARK FACT:** The teeth on the Jaws movie poster are a Mako shark, not a Great White.

## SHARK ATTACK!

### What To Do When He's After YOU!

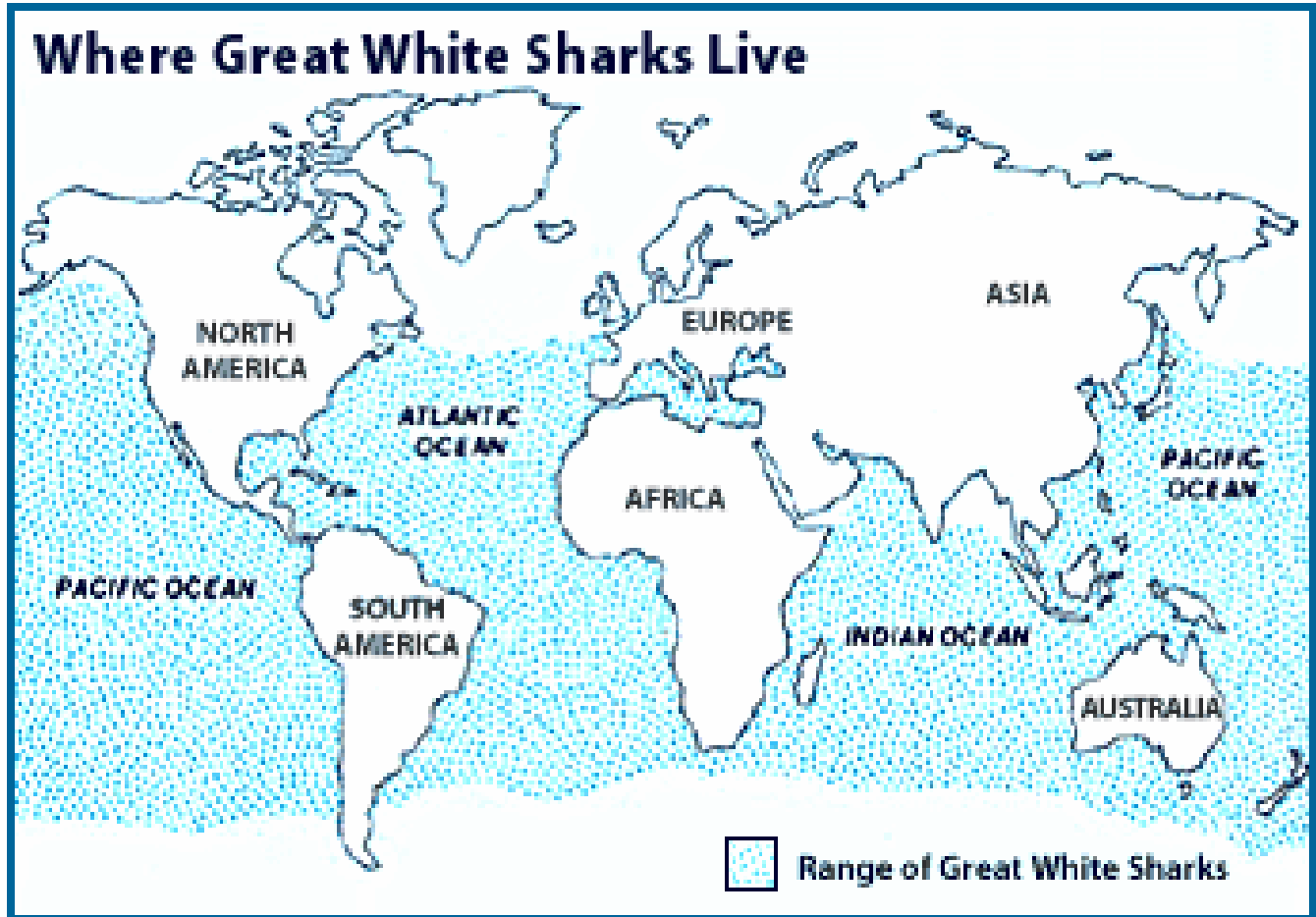
So you see a shark in the water before he sees you . You can consider yourself lucky or food. If you think you are going to be food, this is the time to start acting like it. Be sure to scream , and put on a scene. Start to panic and splash! This is serving yourself up to him and his family.

You're really lucky if you see him before he sees you. The most important thing is to stay calm and swim evenly back to the land or boat. Keep your eyes on the



shark at all times, they don't usually attack creatures that are looking at them. If you have no other choice, try hitting the shark as hard as you can on his nose. They don't like that. Remember , hitting the shark on the nose should be your last resort.

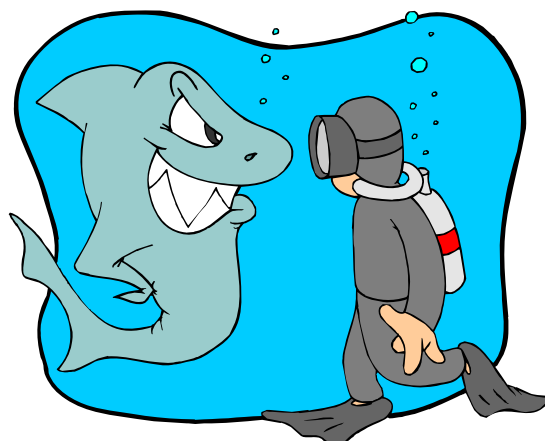
Many people pay to go on shark dives on vacation. Sometimes they can swim freely with the sharks or they are lowered in cages to watch sharks in their habitat. This could not happen if we were on the sharks dinner menu! When we are enjoying the ocean, we should respect sharks and not fear them..

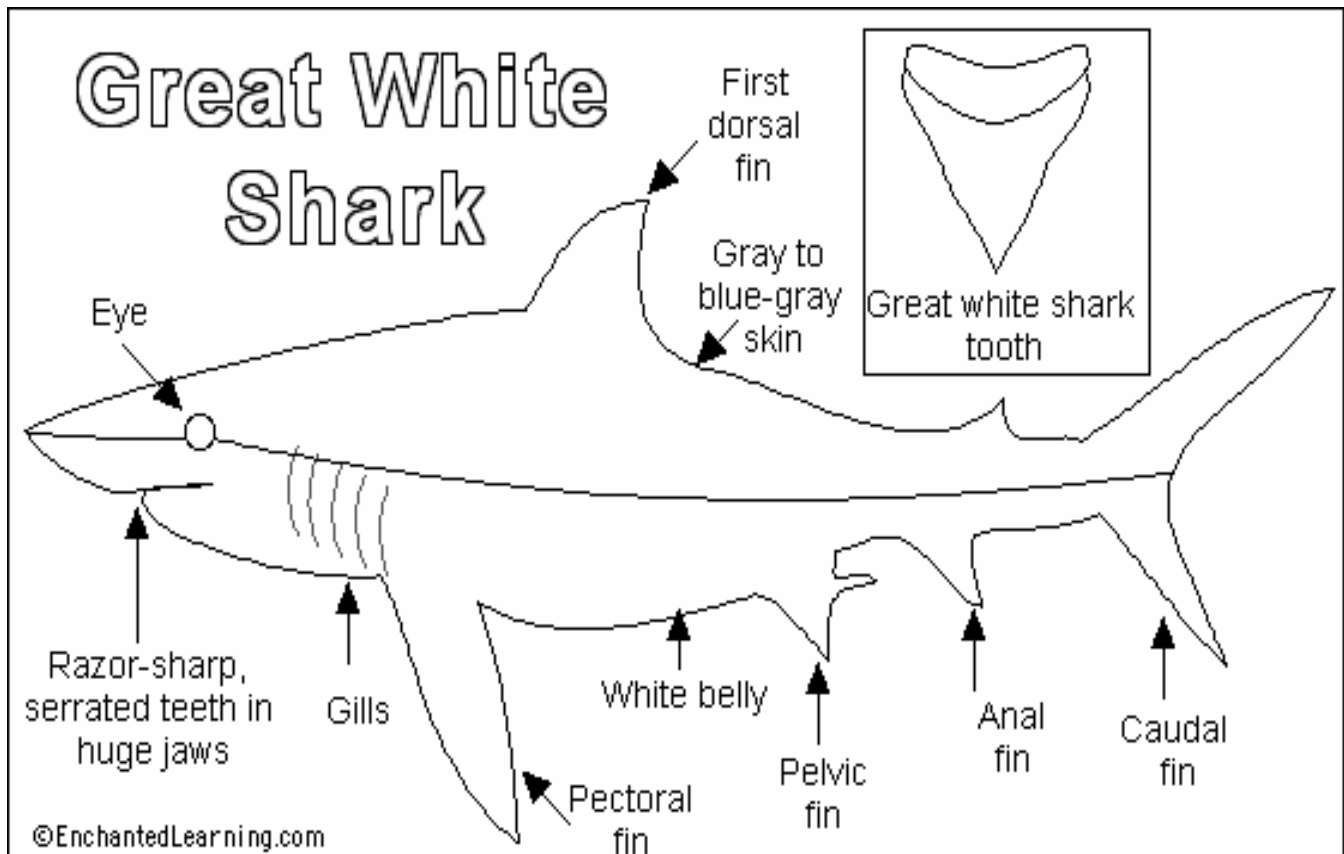


## Where Great White Sharks Live And Roam

Here is a map showing all the places Great White sharks can live and have been spotted. They prefer warmer water, but if the feeding is good that's where you will find them. They are able to control their body temperature so they can be more comfortable in colder water if need be.

It was thought that Great Whites were loners but now marine biologists have learned they actually do live in communities. This creature has been around millions of years, but we are still learning new things about it all the time. That's pretty cool!





**Shark fact:** Great Whites are the only sharks that are able to poke their heads out of the water!

## Pop Quiz

The Great White Shark's Scientific name is:

- A. Spike
- B. Grandous Toothus
- C. Carcharodon Carcharias

Sharks breathe through their:

- A. Gills
- B. Nose
- C. Mouth

If a Great White stops swimming, it will:

- A. Drown
- B. Do a jig
- C. Fall asleep

Great Whites prefer to eat:

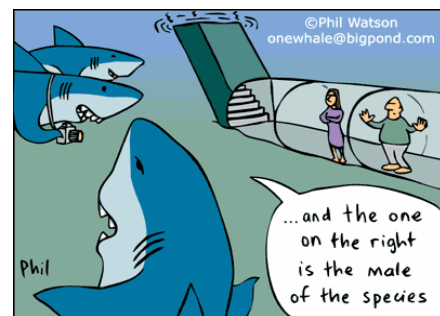
- A. Pizza
- B. Snakes
- C. Seals

Great Whites breach to:

- A. Get a tan
- B. Get some fresh air
- C. Hunt prey

If you spot a shark while swimming be sure to:

- A. Write out your will
- B. Remain Calm
- C. Tease it



ANSWERS:  
C, A, A, C, C, B

# FEEDING

