

Great White Shark

Carcharodon carcharias

Vulnerable

Fact Sheet · Colouring Page · Activities

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Great White Shark — Fact Sheet

Scientific name	Carcharodon carcharias
Conservation status	Vulnerable
Region	All oceans — concentrated near South Africa, Australia, and California
Habitat	Coastal and offshore temperate and subtropical oceans worldwide
Diet	Carnivore — seals, sea lions, fish, rays, dolphins, and sea turtles
Weight	520–2,268 kg
Size	4–6 m length (females are larger than males)
Lifespan	70+ years in the wild
Wild population	Estimated 3,500 worldwide

Did You Know?

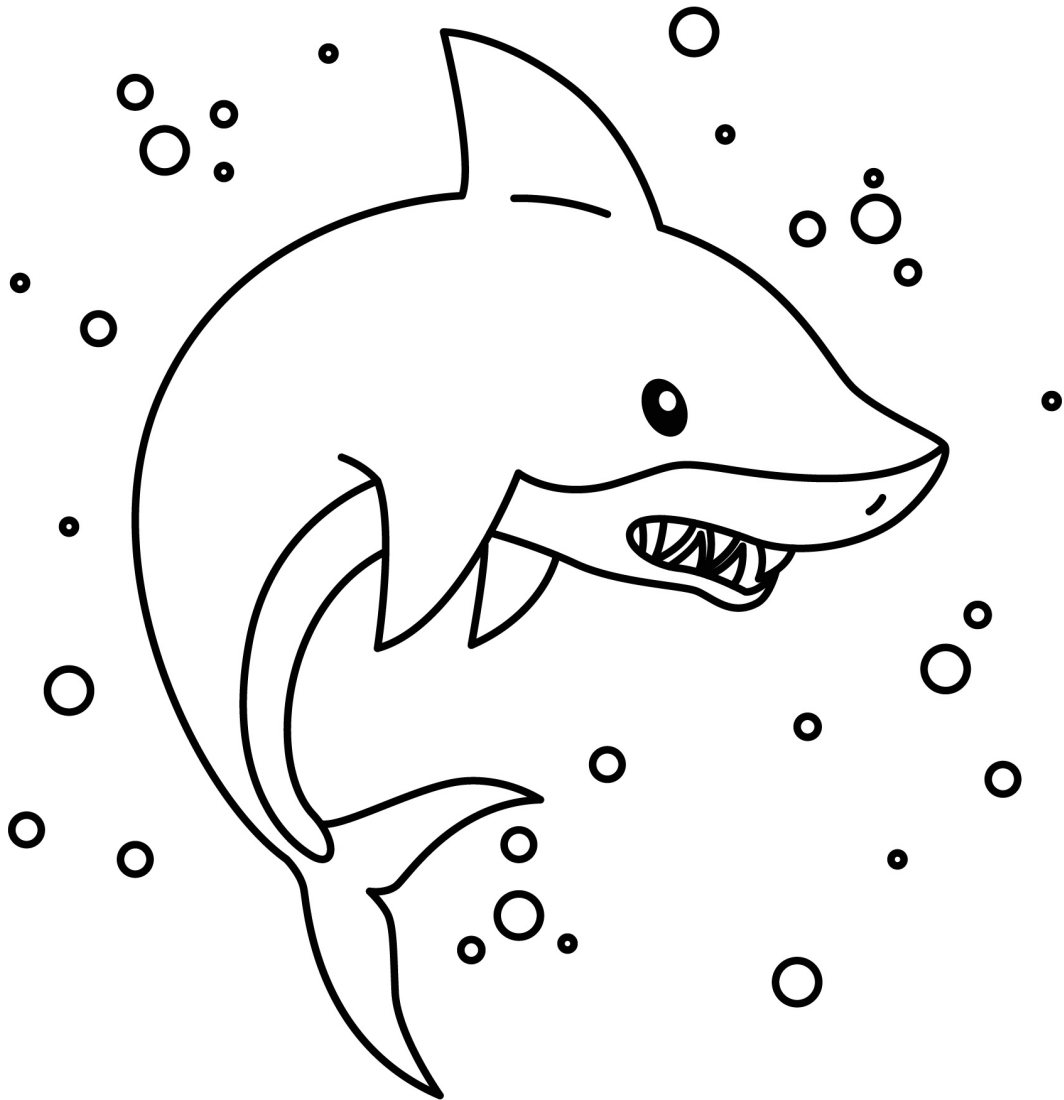
- Great white sharks can detect a single drop of blood in 100 litres of water using their extraordinary sense of smell.
- They have up to 300 serrated teeth in 5 rows — and can replace a lost tooth within 24 hours!
- Great whites can 'spy-hop' — lifting their head above water to look for prey on the surface.
- They are partially warm-blooded — they can raise their body temperature to swim faster in cold water.
- A great white can go up to 3 months without eating after a very large meal.
- Despite their reputation, sharks kill fewer than 10 people worldwide per year — humans kill around 100 million sharks.

Threats to Survival

1. Overfishing and accidental bycatch in longline fisheries
2. Shark finning — fins removed illegally for soup
3. Boat strikes and gear entanglement
4. Prey depletion reducing available food

Colour Me: Great White Shark

Great white sharks are grey-blue on top and white on the bottom. This counter-shading makes them nearly invisible from above or below.



Great White Shark — Activities

Word Search

Find all 8 words hidden in the grid.

Y	H	T	H	J	E	J	Q	V	C	K	D
S	X	C	W	G	X	C	F	N	Q	V	A
H	D	E	Z	J	K	L	F	U	F	U	O
D	S	H	Y	M	Y	O	I	K	V	L	D
T	S	T	L	O	P	T	N	E	J	N	K
C	N	U	B	Z	C	E	S	X	Y	E	P
Y	S	X	N	K	S	E	L	N	A	R	U
A	N	W	R	V	F	T	A	Y	A	A	X
L	G	A	I	Z	D	H	O	N	O	B	X
G	H	N	X	M	J	A	W	S	I	L	M
S	E	K	L	K	V	M	D	B	C	E	H
Q	O	M	P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	P

SHARK	OCEAN	PREDATOR	TEETH
FINS	VULNERABLE	SWIM	JAWS

Match It Up

Draw a line from each word on the left to its meaning on the right.

Great White Shark		apex ocean predator
Serrated teeth		accidentally caught in nets
Finning		illegal removal of shark fins
Spy-hop		lifting head above water
Bycatch		replaced throughout life

Fill in the Blanks

- Great white sharks can have up to _____ teeth at once.
- They are partially warm-blooded, called _____.
- There are only an estimated _____ great white sharks left.
- Great whites are listed as _____ on the IUCN Red List.

Answers: 300 / endothermic / 3,500 / Vulnerable

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