4TH GRADE READING · NONFICTION

Sharks



Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 183 words | Main idea and key details

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Sharks have swum in Earth's oceans for more than 400 million years. That means they were here long before the dinosaurs. Today there are more than 500 kinds of sharks, from the dwarf lantern shark, which could fit in your hand, to the whale shark, the biggest fish in the world.

2 A shark's skeleton is not made of bone. It is made of **cartilage,** the same bendy material that is in your nose and ears. **Cartilage** is lighter than bone, which helps sharks swim without sinking. Sharks also have rows of teeth. When a tooth falls out, another one moves forward to take its place. Some sharks use thousands of teeth in a lifetime.

3 Many people are afraid of sharks, but sharks **rarely** attack humans. Around the whole world, sharks bite only about 70 to 100 people in a year. People, on the other hand, catch millions of sharks every year.

4 That is a problem, because sharks keep oceans healthy. As **predators,** they eat sick and weak fish, which helps fish groups stay strong. Scientists say that protecting sharks also protects the ocean.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Sharks: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. What is a shark skeleton made of?

a bone b shell c cartilage

2. Why is cartilage helpful to sharks?

a it is harder than bone b it keeps them warm c it is lighter than bone

3. What is the main idea?

a sharks have no teeth

b sharks keep oceans healthy

c sharks are dangerous

2 True or false? Circle one.

Sharks lived on Earth before the dinosaurs.	True	False
The whale shark is the biggest fish in the world.	True	False
Sharks bite millions of people every year.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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4TH GRADE READING · NONFICTION

Sharks: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

cartilage	not often
rarely	animals that hunt other animals
predators	bendy material like the kind in your nose

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Why do scientists say that protecting sharks also protects the ocean?

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Sharks

1 Circle the best answer

1. c) cartilage

2. c) it is lighter than bone

3. b) sharks keep oceans healthy

2 True or false

True: Sharks lived on Earth before the dinosaurs.

True: The whale shark is the biggest fish in the world.

False: Sharks bite millions of people every year.

3 Word meanings

cartilage: bendy material like the kind in your nose

rarely: not often

predators: animals that hunt other animals

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

Sharks are predators that eat sick and weak fish. This keeps fish groups strong, so the whole ocean stays healthy.

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