



Grades 11-12 - Vocabulary: Sharks

Dermal Denticles - Tiny tooth-shaped scales that cover a shark's body. Dermal Denticles have the same structure as teeth - enamel, dentine, pulp, epidermis, and dermis.

Counter Shading - Having a dark dorsal or upper side and a lighter colored underside.

Lateral Line - A row of sensors used by sharks and other fish, which detect vibrations.

Cartilage - The material that makes up a shark's skeleton (not bone), and is also found in our ears and nose.

Basihyal - A shark's tongue, composed of a small piece of cartilage on the bottom of a shark's mouth.

Carnivore - An animal that eats meat.

Megalodon - An ancient shark that lived between 5 and 1.6 million years ago.

Serrated Tooth - A tooth with a jagged edge that is used for sawing.

Dorsal Fin - Primary fin located on the back of fishes and certain marine mammals.

Pectoral Fins - Either of the anterior pairs of fins.

Barbels - Sensory projections near the nostrils and mouth of some sharks, i.e. nurse sharks. They are whisker-like feelers used to taste and feel.

Gills - Respiratory organs that fish use to absorb oxygen from the water in order to breathe.

Snout - The tip of a shark's head.

Pup - A newly born or hatched shark.

Claspers - Two finger like projections on the rear underside of male sharks.

Ampullae of Lorenzini - Pores scattered about the head of sharks that are filled with a jellylike substance that can sense temperature change and weak electrical impulses given off by sick prey.

Fusiform - A streamlined, oval shape body.

Oviparity - The method of reproduction whereby egg cases are laid and the young develop outside the body and are nourished by yolk.

Ovoviviparity - Reproduction whereby embryos develop in utero, nourished by yolk stored in a yolk sac. When gestation is complete, embryos hatch and female shark gives birth to live young.

Viviparity - Method of reproduction whereby embryos live on stored yolk within a yolk sac that is connected to the wall of the uterus (analogous to placenta in mammals), followed by live birth.