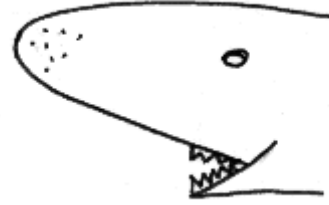


Suzy's World

Sharks - How many teeth does a shark have?

Fact

- Within its lifetime a shark can have thousands of teeth.
- Most sharks have one row of teeth exposed at a time, but they have up to 7 sets of fully-grown teeth waiting in their jaw.
- A young shark may lose a set of teeth in a week.



Do you know

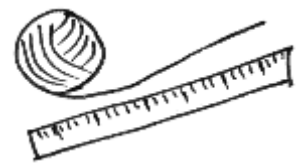
- Sharks don't chew their food – they bite it then swallow it whole.
- Different sharks eat different kinds of things; seabirds, seals, turtles, crustaceans, and plankton.
- Some sharks have been known to eat strange things! Gumboots, cows, buckets, hats, tyres... all kinds of things.
- Sharks don't have bones like ours. Their skeleton is made up of the same stuff our nose and ears are made of, cartilage.
- Sharks have been around for 400 million years.

Experiments you can do

Next time you have fish and chips find out if your chip shop serves you up shark – they often do in the North Island. While you're enjoying your meal think about how your teeth are different from sharks teeth. Sharks don't chew their food they swallow it whole – don't try that though or you'll choke!

Other Investigation

Use a ball of string or wool to measure out the size of the smallest known shark and the largest known shark.
Measure out 15 centimetres of string or wool for the Pygmy Cat Shark
Measure out 13 metres for the Whale Shark
Then measure out 7.5 centimetres for the longest known shark tooth!



Jokes

How do sharks count? They count on fish fingers