

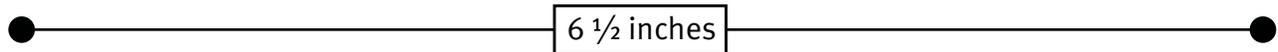
Shark Word Search

Directions: After reading the information below, find the bold words in the word search on the back of this sheet.

Sharks are **fish** that live in the ocean. They have a special skeleton that is lighter than our bones, made of **cartilage**. Cartilage is the same stuff that our ears are made out of! Even though their skeletons are soft, sharks have **teeth** that are hard. The teeth are not attached to a shark's jaw, however, and sharks are constantly losing teeth. Some sharks can have up to 3,000 teeth in their lifetime!

There are more than 350 species of sharks in the world. The largest is the **whale shark**. Scientists believe that these sharks can grow up to 65 feet long – that's longer than a school bus! Whale sharks are **filter feeders**, which means they suck in large gulps of water. Tiny animals in the water get caught in the **gill rakers**, which are like Velcro in the shark's mouth. The whale shark then pushes all the water out of its mouth, swallows the food that gets caught, and then takes another big mouthful of water.

The smallest shark in the world is believed to be the **dwarf lanternshark**. Most are no bigger than 6 ½ inches, which is the length of the line below.



The most well-known shark species, however, is probably the **great white shark**. These sharks can leap 10 feet out of the water to capture their **prey**, which includes sea lions, seals and even birds! **Ichthyologists** (scientists that study fish) have attached radio trackers to great white sharks, from which they have learned that great white sharks **migrate** each year, probably to find food and have babies.

At the Saint Louis Zoo, we have **bonnethead sharks, white spotted bamboo sharks and nurse sharks**. Bonnethead sharks are the smallest of the **hammerhead sharks**. They must swim all the time, to keep their gills well supplied with oxygen. In the wild, bonnethead sharks can be found in warm waters along both coasts in North and South America.

White spotted bamboo sharks are **nocturnal**, which means they hide all day and then hunt for food at night. They also have **barbels**, which look like whiskers on their nose, to help them locate food. White spotted bamboo sharks can use their strong **fins** like legs to crawl along the ocean floor or a reef. They live in the Pacific region of the world, near countries such as Madagascar, India, China and Japan.

Nurse sharks have small mouths, but they can suck up food like a vacuum. They also have barbels, much like the white spotted bamboo shark. Nurse sharks and white spotted bamboo sharks do not have to swim constantly, because they have **spiracles**. These openings are located right behind the shark's eyes and push water over the gills, so that the shark can rest. Nurse sharks are found along both coasts in North and South America, as well as the east coast of Africa.

Visit stlzoo.org for more information on sharks and other animals.

