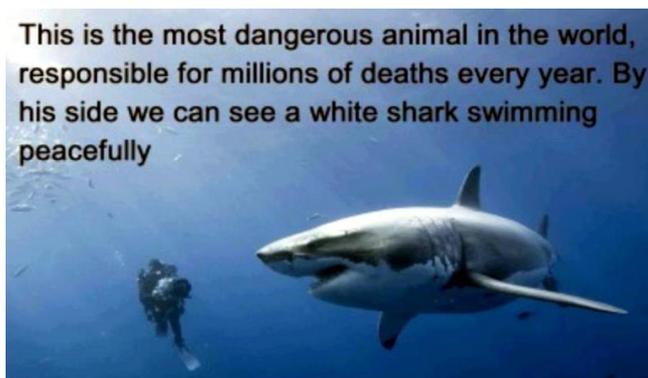


Jaws and Man-eaters

Shark Research Project for *Jaws*



Sharks are crucial to marine ecosystems. They maintain a balance in populations of prey species and keep the ocean healthy by removing ill or diseased animals. They are an important resource supporting local economies through fishing and as an attraction to tourists.

But sharks are in a global decline. Overfishing has reduced many shark populations around the world to levels that threaten their continued existence. Shark numbers have fallen by more than 80% in many cases, and the continued existence of some species is at immediate risk in some regions. For example European sharks are particularly in danger with around one third of the species threatened with extinction, one of the highest levels in the world.

However, despite this, people still fear and hate these beautiful animals. Because of this, some experts argue, human beings are unwilling to protect sharks—and their cousins rays and chimaeras. Though sharks have been a vital part of many world cultures throughout history, in modern times they have been mostly ignored by science and misunderstood by the general public. However, in 1974 Peter Benchley's novel *Jaws* and the movie it inspired created a change in our culture and our understanding of these "man eaters."

Despite years of research and data, people are still terrified of being "attacked" by a shark. However, you are more likely to be killed by a vending machine or lightning than by a shark bite. In fact, many species present absolutely no danger to humans. Still, we are afraid.

In addition to reading Benchley's novel we will look at the reality of sharks. Specifically, we will look at different species and the threat we present to them. You will be completing a project in which you will choose a shark species to focus on, do some research, and create a Power Point presentation about your shark. Once we have finished the book, you will present this to the class.

Research Presentation

Your presentation should contain the following information:

SLIDE 1—Basic Info

1. Photo(s) of your shark
2. Common Name—what do we call it?
3. Scientific Name—learn to pronounce it (see a science teacher) or use an audio file for pronunciation
4. Taxonomy—distinguishing features; how big do they get? what color are they? do they have any specific markings? how we tell your shark apart from others?

SLIDE 2—Life of Your Shark

1. Habitat—where do we find your shark? (may be multiple areas)
2. Diet—what do they eat? (some eat some unusual things)
3. Life Cycle—try to include these points:
 - a. How long do they live?
 - b. How old are they when they reach sexual maturity?
 - c. How often can they give birth?
 - d. How many pups do they have in a litter?
 - e. What is the length of gestation?
 - f. How many pups can a single female produce in a 20 year period and how many will survive?

SLIDE 3—Conservation

1. Danger to People—Do they attack people? If so, how many times per year?
2. Extinction Threat Level—Are they endangered? Threatened? How many are killed by humans each year? Are they protected?
3. Use—If we kill them, what do we do with them? Fishing for sport? Food? Are they mostly bycatch?

SLIDE 4—Various

This slide is for any interesting facts, pictures, videos, or whatever you want. This slide is not required.

SLIDE 5—Bibliographical Information

Your research should be accompanied by appropriate, MLA-formatted bibliographies. You are to use AT LEAST two (2) sources for this project.

You are encouraged to use media (photos, videos, music, etc.) in all of your slides. Additionally, you may use more than one slide for each of the subjects covered above. If your information requires, use as many slides as you like. Your presentation should be about 3-5 minutes of information, however, and you will be graded on information as well as creativity.

Shark Species

You may choose from any of the following shark species this project. Some are individual species and some are groups with many different individual species associated with different areas of the world. There are also many species not listed here and you may choose any species of shark for your focus (with the exception of white sharks).

You MUST have your choice approved before you begin. Only one individual will be assigned to each species.

Giant filter feeders

- Whales
- Baskings

Commonly associated with aggression

- Bulls
- Tigers
- Hammerheads* (great, scalloped, smooth)
- Oceanic Whitetips
- Threshers* (long-tailed/common)

Commonly found on reefs and near beaches

- Reefs* (blacktip, whitetip, grey)
- Nurses
- Sand Tigers
- Lemons

Commonly fished

- Blues
- Porbeagles
- Dogfish* (spiny dogfish)
- Makos (shortfin/longfin)

Unusual/Rare

- Carpets*
- Wobbegongs* (subspecies of carpets)
- Bluntnose Sixgills / Sevengills
- Angel Sharks*
- Sawfish (carpenter sharks)

*Encompass larger grouping of species and subspecies. You may use multiple similar species or focus on one species. Some examples are given.

NAME:

SPECIES:

Shark Research Presentation Rubric

You will be assessed on whether or not you have presented the given criteria for the assignment (required information) as well as your overall knowledge and comfort with the subject of your research. Lastly, your bibliographical information will be assessed on proper MLA format.

You must have a printed slideshow AND "Works Cited" page to accompany your presentation.

Component	Possible	Earned
Common Name	1	
Scientific Name	1	
Taxonomy	5	
Habitat	1	
Diet	1	
Age Expectancy	1	
Sexual Maturity	1	
Reproduction Cycle	1	
Number of Pups	1	
Length of Gestation	1	
Danger Posed	1	
Conservation Status	1	
Uses to Humans	1	
Presenter's Knowledgeability	8	
Presenter's Enthusiasm	5	
Presentation Appeal	10	
Presentation Creativity	10	
Bibliographical Correctness	10	
Sources Used	2	
TOTAL POINTS	62	