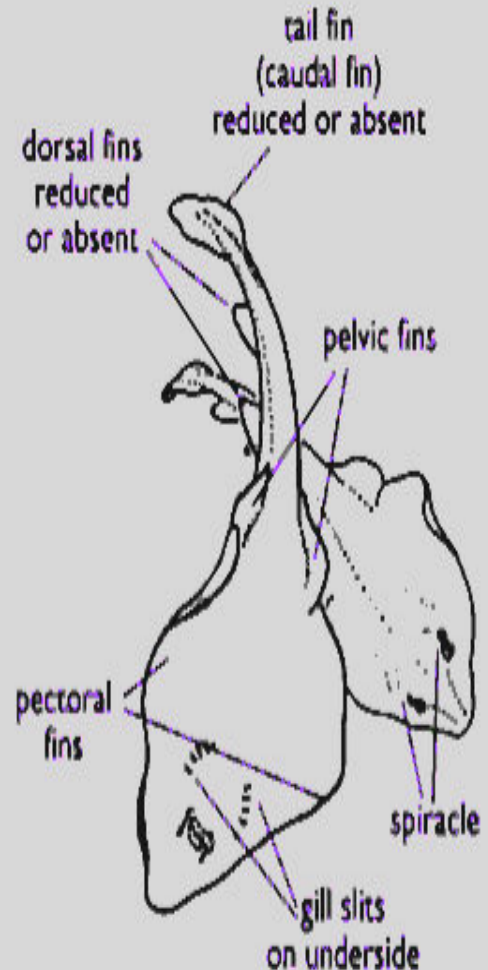
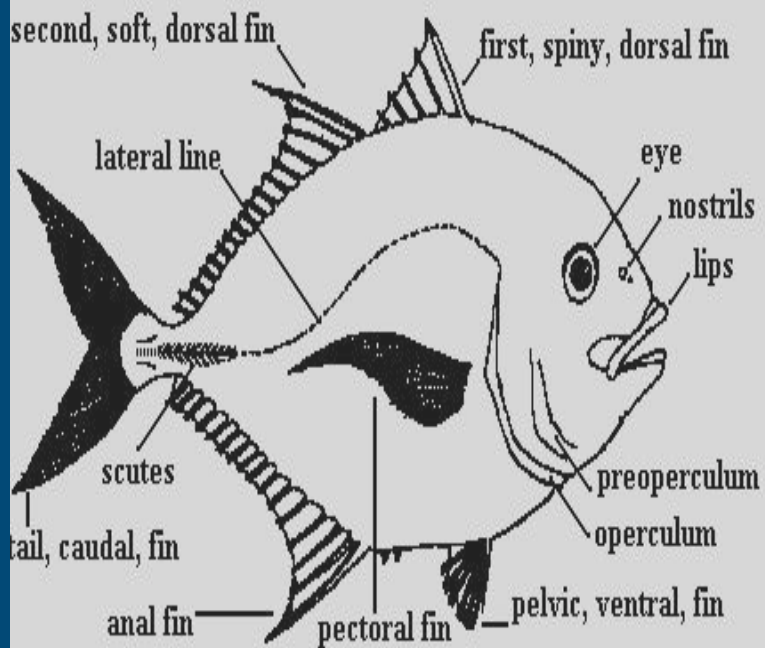
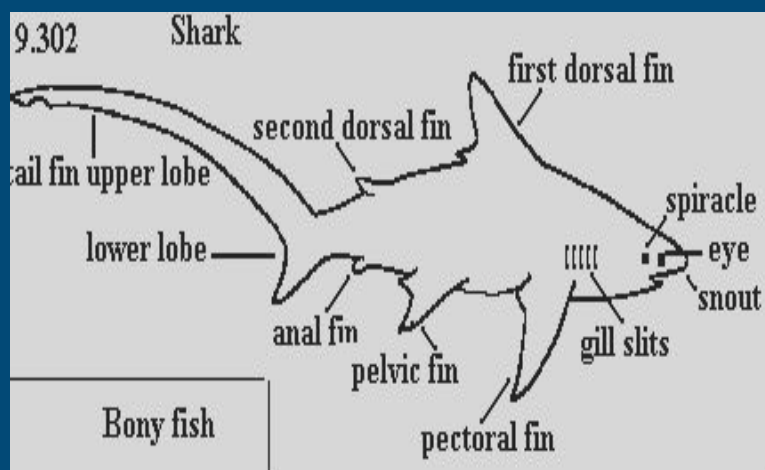




Morphology: Similarities between sharks and other marine animals



RAY

Fun Facts

Sharks.....

- are fish with a full cartilaginous skeleton
- can range in size from the 2-foot pygmy shark, to the colossal 50-foot whale shark
- consist of more than 250 different species currently identified, making it one of the most diverse animal genera on the planet.
- are found in every major body of saltwater in the world, but are more common in warmer waters
- are generally predatory, though some are more ferocious than others
- have an extraordinary sense of smell when it comes to hunting prey, and have been known to be able to sense visually undetectable amounts of animal blood dispersed into the water from considerable distances
- keep populations of smaller fish in check. Without sharks, entire ecosystems are disrupted.
- can see in murky water because of a membrane called the tapetum lucidum that makes their eyes more sensitive to light
- Shark blood contains a compound that stops it from clotting. Scientists are studying this compound to help people with heart disease
- control fish populations through fear. Fish near sharks are stressed and have problems with reproduction and migration
- Sharks use geographic profiling, which pinpoints locations where attacks are likely to happen such as fish travel routes, reefs and channels
- A goblin shark's jaw collapses back into its mouth after it finishes eating
- The small fish you see on sharks are called remoras and have suction cups on their heads that allow them to stick to sharks
- Blue sharks are among the most threatened shark species in the world. Overfishing and trade in fins have caused the population to decline
- You don't have to be in the ocean to see a shark. Bull sharks love freshwater, and have been spotted in bays, lagoons, and rivers

More at <http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/shark-week/shark-facts/top-100-shark-facts/>

The largest of the shark species, the whale shark



and basking shark, are virtually harmless plankton eaters



Blue sharks are piggy eaters. They'll keep eating until they regurgitate, after which they go back to eating! They are common off southern California most of the year, but during warm water periods occurs much further north.



Great Whites generally will not fight with one another for food. Instead, they will have “tail-slap” competitions until one gives up. The loser must continue his/her hunt elsewhere

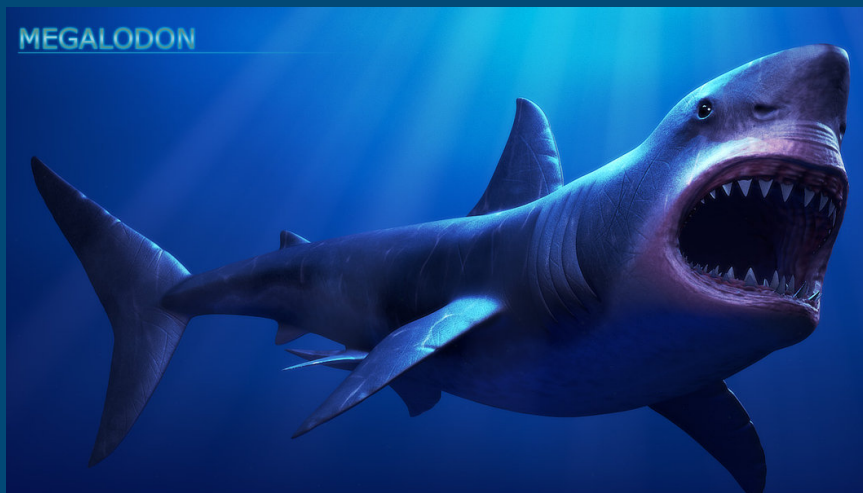


Prehistoric Sharks

One of the earliest relatives of modern sharks, the Bandringa had a head covered in spikes, a long snout and a protruding jaw



A great white shark bite has 1.8 tons of force, but its prehistoric relative, the Megalodon used up to 18.2 tons of force



Helicoprion, a prehistoric shark, sliced prey like a buzz saw with its 360-degree spiral of teeth

