

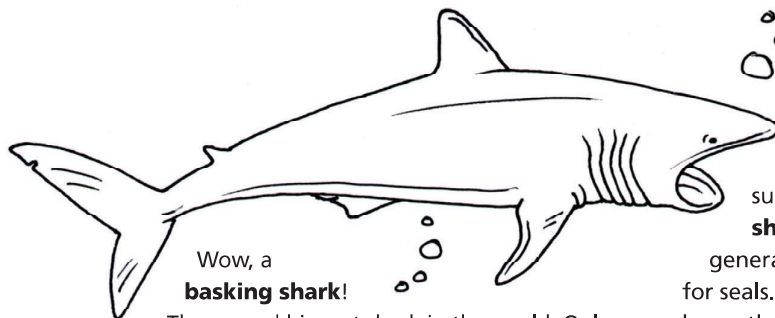
Shark Attack!



Hi there! My name's Paul Neary and I welcome you aboard my scientific shark expedition. Are you feeling nervous? Don't be! It's rare that sharks actually attack humans. Usually there are less than 100 reported cases worldwide each year, and fewer than 20 people die as a consequence. In fact, you're more likely to be killed by a hippo, crocodile or even lightning than by a shark.

As a marine biologist, I try to learn more about life in the oceans so that we can protect endangered species such as the basking and great white sharks. If people could learn to love sharks and not hunt them, then shark fin soup, sharkskin shoes and shark teeth jewellery would become things of the past. Did you know that over 50 of the 400 species of shark are endangered? Terrible isn't it? And they call sharks 'the hunters of the sea'!

Anyway, it's time we dived into this watery deep to see what we can find. But remember, stay close. This is, after all, their home and we haven't been invited.

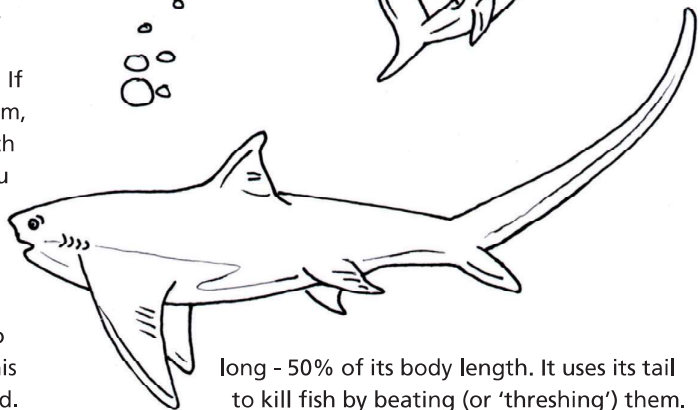
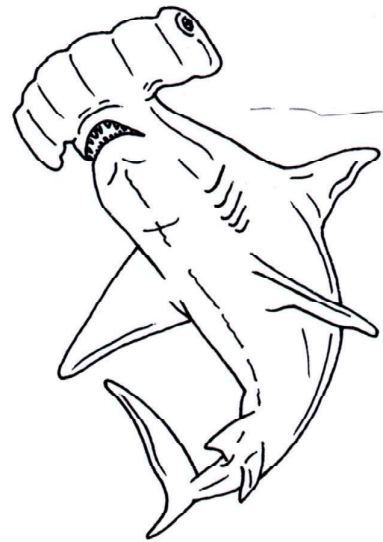


Wow, a **basking shark**!

The second biggest shark in the world. Only the **whale shark** can beat it. An adult can be 9 metres long. But don't worry; this gentle giant eats krill (like tiny prawns) and plankton. If you look carefully you will notice it doesn't have large enough teeth for biting or chewing.

And this odd-looking shark here is called a **hammerhead**. Can't think why. It can reach up to 6 metres long and usually swims in groups. It likes to eat squid, octopus and even crabs. I think we're safe but like most sharks, its saw-like teeth are razor sharp.

That shark over there is called a **thresher shark**. Its tail is really long, isn't it? It can grow up to 3 metres



long - 50% of its body length. It uses its tail to kill fish by beating (or 'threshing') them. So you can see where it got its name. It's probably one of the cleverest sharks. Both the Greeks and the Romans called it the fox shark because it's so cunning.

Be careful of the shark down there. I'm sure you already know that the **great white shark** has been known to attack humans. They generally attack surfers because they mistake them for seals. Their poor eyesight doesn't help! Did you know that if kept in captivity, these beautiful creatures often live for only a few days? What does that tell you?

