

Cross-Curricular Cut Science



Sharks

STUDY SKILLS

Activating prior knowledge

Before you read a text, think about what you already know about the topic and what you would like to learn about it. This will help you get into the topic and follow the text easier.

- 1 Look at the picture. What do you know about this animal? What would you like to learn about it?

Listening

- 2 Listen and label sentences 1-4 as T (true) or F (false).

- 1 Sharks have been around for 30 million years.
- 2 Sharks have a limited supply of teeth.
- 3 Sharks are fast swimmers.
- 4 Sharks don't have gills.

Reading

- 3 Read the article and chart the shark's adaptations and their effects in the graphic organizer below. Then explain the words in bold.

Adaptation	How it helps the animal survive

Equipped to Survive

Animals exhibit a wide variety of special **adaptations** that help them survive in their **habitats**. Sharks, one of the oldest **predators** on earth, have been around for millions of years because of their ability to adapt to their **environment**.



Sharks and their direct **ancestors** have ruled the oceans for over 300 million years. They have unique **features** that explain why they have **survived** so many millions of years and earned the name "the perfect predator". They have many rows of sharp teeth so they can easily **rip apart** their prey. In addition, sharks have an endless **supply** of teeth, so they are always able to hunt for prey. When a shark's tooth breaks, another one immediately replaces it. Sharks also have **gills** that allow them to take oxygen directly from the water. For that reason, sharks do not have to come to the surface to breathe and can stay underwater for unlimited amounts of time. They also have a torpedo-shaped body that helps them swim fast through the water. In addition, their colouration acts as a great **camouflage**. Sharks can approach their prey **undetected** because they **blend** in perfectly with their **surroundings**. For example, the Great White shark is blue with a white belly so that it looks like the sky from below and like the sea from above. With such great adaptations, it's no wonder that sharks are known as the greatest predators of the oceans!

Speaking

- 4 Use the completed graphic organizer in Ex. 3 to talk about the shark's adaptations and state how they help it survive in its habitat. Are these adaptations physical or behavioural?

Writing

- 5 Write a short article about an animal found in your country and its unique adaptations that help it survive in its habitat. Use the article in Ex. 3 as a model. Use books in your school library, encyclopedias, and the internet to collect information.