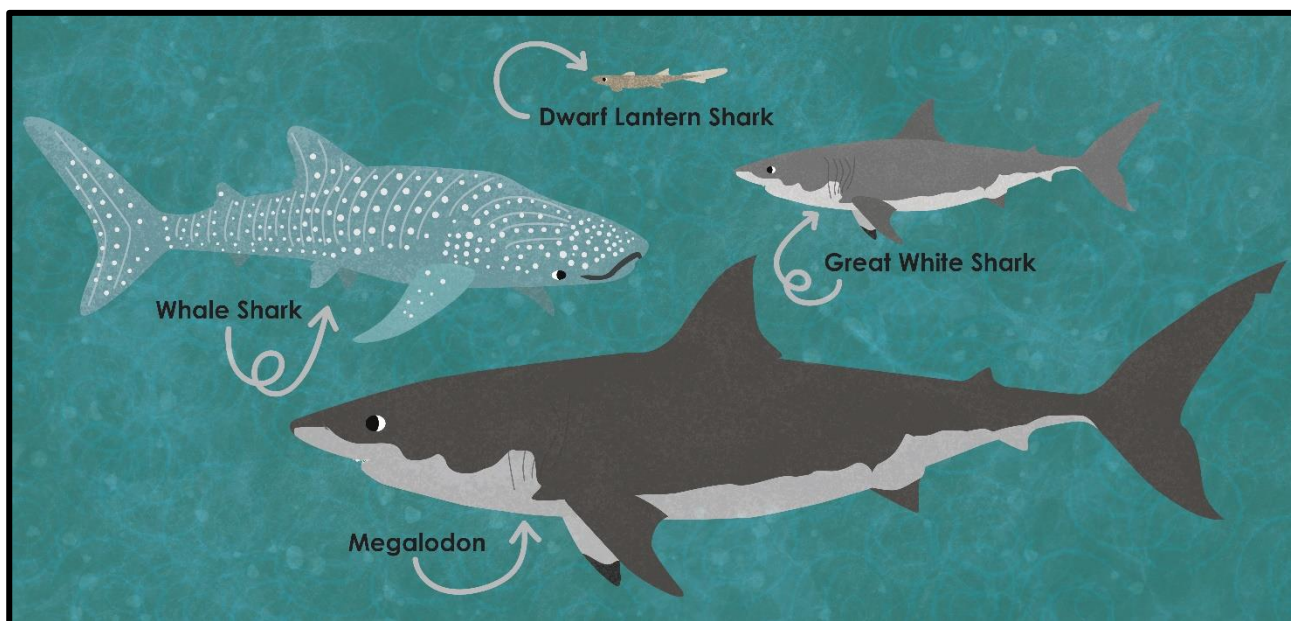


## Deepening Understanding

### YR2 Information Text

### Super Sharks by Beth Gascoigne-Owens



Sharks have swam in our oceans for millions of years. Did you know there are hundreds of different species of sharks? These brilliant sea creatures can be very different from each other in what they do, what they eat and in their behaviour.

#### The Smallest Shark

The dwarf lanternshark grows to around 20cm or less. It is a type of dogfish shark and is the smallest type of shark in the world. This kind of shark is usually only found in two parts of the world and can be found swimming in the oceans of Columbia and Venezuela.

#### Toothy Terror

The shark with the most teeth is the whale shark which swims slowly and it 'filter feeds' as it goes. Filter feeding means that the sea water passes through their mouths and the shark filters and eats only the small creatures as it swims. They can grow to

around 12m in length which is longer than many classrooms! This makes it the longest fish. Even though they can have thousands of teeth, they don't usually threaten humans as they tend to mainly feed on plankton.

### Great White Shark

The great white shark is probably the most well-known shark species as it has starred in films! They are large sharks and can grow to around 6m in length. They can live a long time compared to other shark species and can live up to 70 years old. They can swim very fast and they can dive to very deep depths. They can also swim huge distances. These sharks have been known to attack humans but they prefer eating sea life.

### The Mega Megalodon

The megalodon shark is now extinct. It lived millions of years ago. It is said to have been the largest shark species ever to live, reaching 18m in length. People now think that it ate larger sea life such as whales and seals because its huge jaw was very capable of opening wide so it could eat large food. It isn't completely understood why this magnificent creature became extinct but it is probably due to whale numbers dropping. This meant it had less food to compete for. This was at a time when it is thought that the oceans became colder due to an ice age. These things together possibly led to the extinction of this fascinating fish.

### Where can I Learn more about sharks?

If sharks interest you, consider visiting an aquarium where you can see them face-to-face in a safe environment. You'll be sure to hear about the conservation work and research they are doing to protect and learn more about these super species of fish.

