

# Shark Story

Shark Tale is an animated buddy movie set in the ocean where the sharks rule the Reef. When the son of the Great White shark Mafia boss, Don Lino, is mysteriously killed, a bottom-feeder hustler fish named Oscar is found at the scene of the crime. Oscar takes advantage of the situation by making it look like he killed the finned mobster as a way of coming famous and 'making it' to the top of the reef. Oscar becomes known as 'the sharkslayer' but soon learns it is a dangerous game in a world where the little fish generally get eaten by the big ones.



## Activity

Imagine you are a researcher for the film Shark Tale and you have been given a list of aquatic terms that are to be used in the film. It is up to you to find out the meaning of these terms and find more aquatic and fishy words yourself.

**Reef**

**Gill rakers**

**Salt water**

**Bottom-feeder**

**Great White**

### **After you have seen the film**

**Bottom-feeder fish are eaten by other fish and sharks, this is known as a food chain. Use the internet to find out which other animals also eat bottom-feeders. What other animals do sharks eat?**

# Shark Tales

Oscar is a bottom-feeding hustler fish who is always in trouble. Whatever mess Oscar ends up in he can usually talk his way out of it. Not content with his job at the Whale Wash, Oscar wants to become something big and he gets his chance when he is mistaken as a hero and a 'sharkslayer'. His reputation does not make him popular with the Mafia Great White sharks that rule the Reef.

In the film Shark Tale, Don Lino is the Mafia boss and the head of the shark family. His older son Frankie has followed in his father's footsteps to become a hot-tempered and cold-blooded shark killer. Lenny the younger son is a disappointment to his father as he lacks the killer instinct and has become a vegetarian!

## Activity

The sharks are a Mafia family which does not make them very nice fish. Their family 'business' involves lots of unkind jobs!

Write a job description for Frankie to show the kinds of behaviour and assignments his father might trust him to complete.

### **After you have seen the film**

**Lenny is not a typical kind of Great White shark like the rest of his family. Make a list of Lenny's behaviour and actions that make him a friendlier shark.**



# Shark Facts

The Mafia family in the film Shark Tale are Great White sharks. This species is the biggest meat-eating shark that can grow up to 6.5 metres and sometimes longer! A big meal can satisfy a Great White shark for up to two months.

Sharks have been around in a similar form for over 400 million years which makes them older than dinosaurs. Today there are over 350 different species of sharks, which vary in shape and size, including the Hammerhead shark, Tiger shark, Bonnethead shark and the Dogfish shark.

The biggest shark is the Whale shark that can grow up to 15 metres long making it the largest fish in the world! The Whale shark feeds on plankton that are microscopic shrimp that it filters through 'gill rakers' at the back of its throat.

Although sharks are often thought to be dangerous to humans, people are more likely to be killed by dogs, pigs, bees or lightning than being eaten by a shark! There are on average about one hundred shark attacks worldwide each year and only about ten attacks may result in death. The Bull shark is the most dangerous to humans as it likes to swim in shallow water and sometimes mistakes the silhouette of a swimmer to be a seal or a sea lion attacking it by mistake!

Most other species of sharks are carnivorous and eat other sharks, fish, squid, turtles, seals, sea lions, dolphins and seagulls. Sharks have the most powerful bite in the world!

Sharks have several rows of teeth, usually about five rows containing up to 3,000 teeth at one time. Their teeth are growing all the time and they are usually replaced every eight days. Some species of sharks may have up to 30,000 teeth in their lifetime.

## Activity

Use the Internet and the library to find out about other species of sharks. See if you can write a 'profile' using the following headings:

<b>Profile</b>	
<b>Species</b>	
<b>Size: length/weight</b>	
<b>Appearance/characteristics</b>	
<b>Habitat</b>	
<b>Distribution</b>	
<b>Food</b>	
<b>Life span</b>	

### After you have seen the film

Some sharks are becoming endangered species due to being hunted by humans. One of these species is the Great White Shark as seen in the film. Find out what is being done to save the sharks and which species are being protected. How will the decreasing numbers of sharks affect the food chain?

# Fishy Features!

The characters in the film Shark Tale strongly resemble the actors who provide their voices because the animators copied their striking facial features. They also studied each actor's individual behaviour and this is replicated in their animated characters behaviour.

Oscar has a huge smile and facial features like Will Smith, the actor who provides his voice. Oscar also has elements of the actor's wild and wacky personality. Robert De Niro provides Don Lino's voice and the character has inherited De Niro's serious expression and even the mole on his cheek! Sykes the puffer fish is voiced by Martin Scorsese and the inflatable fish has his eye-brows. Ernie and Bernie, the jellyfish, have been given a Rastafarian feel with their tentacles looking like dreadlocks due to their voice providers' Caribbean accents.

## Activity

If you were in Shark Tale what kind of underwater animal would you be?

Draw yourself as a sea creature and include your facial features to make the character look like you.



## After you have seen the film

The characters have different sayings in the film such as 'Slap Me Some Fin', 'Gills with Da Skills', and 'Don't Surf On My Turf'.

Can you think of any more phrases from the film?

What might your character's saying be?

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