



Copyright © 2011 South Pacific Press Ltd/Pacific Learning Inc.
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form
without the written permission of the publisher.

Written by Janice Marriott
Edited by Alison Auch
Designed by ThinkSpace Design
Illustrations by Spike Wademan
Published by South Pacific Press, P.O. Box 19088
Wellington, New Zealand 6149
www.csi-literacy.com

PL-6355
ISBN: 978-1-60457-871-3
Printed in the United States of America

CSI
CHAPTERS

Terrifying Beast of the Deep

by Janice Marriott

Contents

The Beast Attacks	2
When Was the Megalodon Alive?	6
How Do We Know about the Megalodon?	8
What Big Teeth You Have!	11
Open Wide!	16
How Big Was the Megalodon?	18
So Long, Megalodon!	20
Glossary	24

The Beast Attacks

In a deep, warm ocean, a whale swims through the water. An attacker is hidden below. It is **camouflaged** against the bottom of the ocean floor. Suddenly, the attacker flicks its **massive** tail and races upward.

The unlucky whale cannot escape. The attacking beast draws back the skin from its teeth and rolls its eyes back.

It bites down powerfully on the head of the whale. Its sharp teeth slice right through the whale's skull.

The beast wriggles its whole body. It bites and tears at the whale's body. The water is cloudy with blood and whale **blubber**.

What *was* that? That was the ancient shark, *Carcharodon megalodon* (car-CARE-oh-don MEG-a-lo-don), eating its dinner.

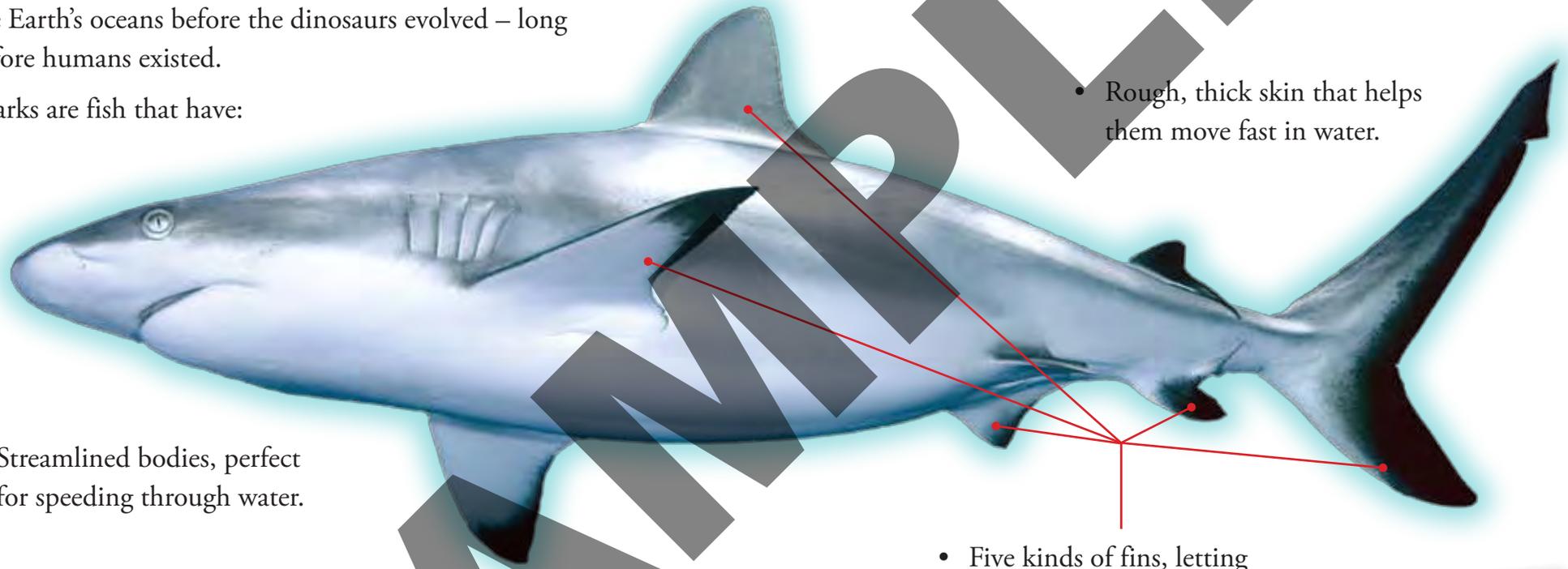
What Is a Shark?

Members of the shark family have been living in the oceans for hundreds of millions of years. Sharks were swimming the Earth's oceans before the dinosaurs evolved – long before humans existed.

Sharks are fish that have:

- Streamlined bodies, perfect for speeding through water.
- Camouflage – they are lighter on the underside and darker on top to make them hard to see from above or below.

- **Flexible** skeletons made of **cartilage** rather than bone.
- Rough, thick skin that helps them move fast in water.



- Five kinds of fins, letting them move around and turn quickly.

Fast Fact

The oldest shark **fossil** ever found is more than 400 million years old!