



# GREAT WHITE SHARK

*What would you do if you encounter great white sharks while sailing out to sea? That sounds intimidating, as the Great White Shark is the top predator in the ocean's ecosystem, but they are not as formidable as you might thought. They are most likely just curious to approach boats to look at people.*

# ANATOMY OF A GREAT WHITE SHARK



**Distribution:**  
almost all major oceans



**Habitat:**  
temperate coastal waters



**Size:**  
females are ~4.5m long  
males are ~3.8m long



**Food habits:**  
fish, seals, sea lions,  
sea turtles, seabirds



**Average lifespan:**  
70 years

## Tail fin

Their large, strong and crescent-shaped tails help propel them speedily through water.



## Dorsal fin

It is unique for each individual great white, similar to the fingerprints of a human. It allows this fish to stay balanced while raming the ocean.

## Snout

Long and pointed, surrounded by some electrosensory pores which help identify prey even in the deep, dark sea.

## Teeth

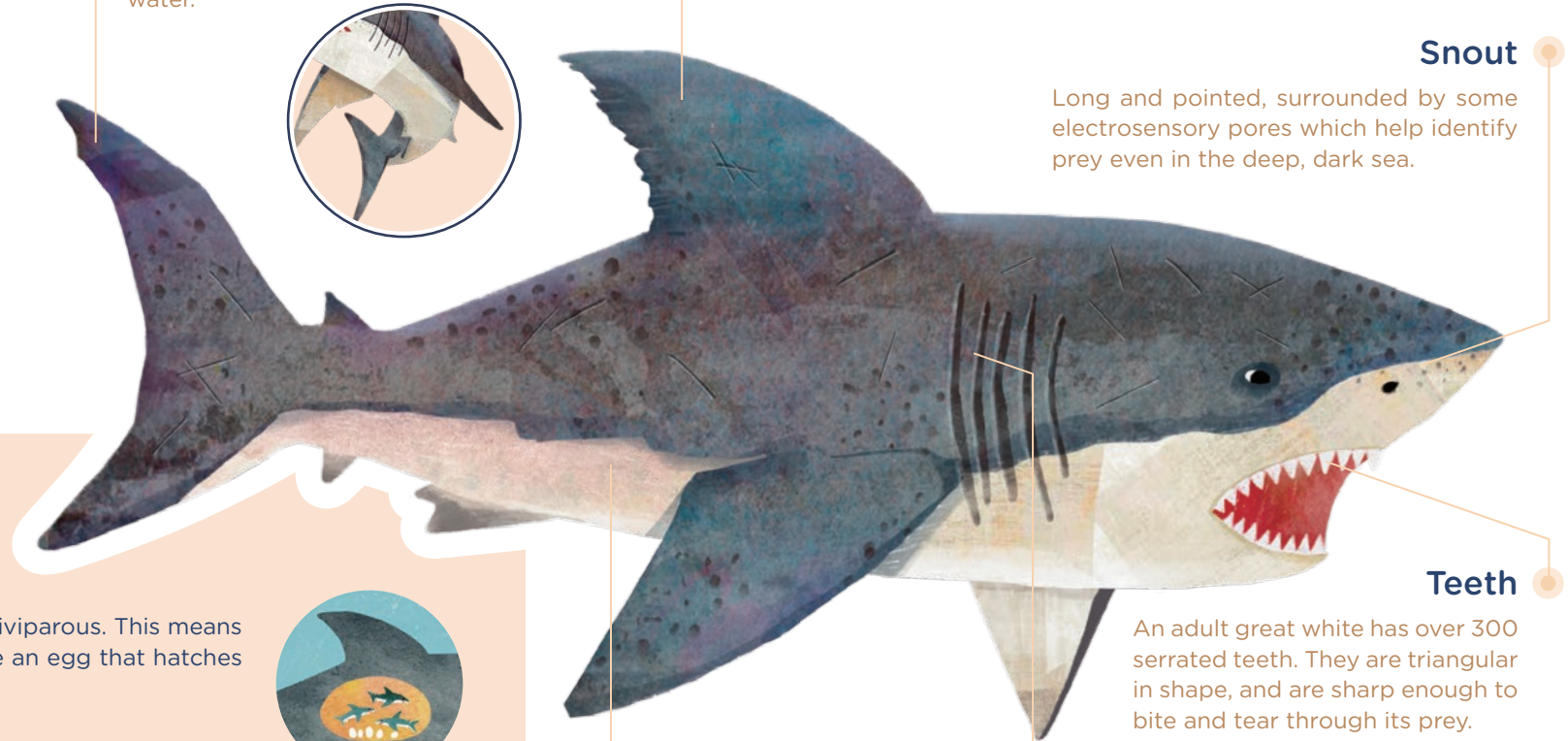
An adult great white has over 300 serrated teeth. They are triangular in shape, and are sharp enough to bite and tear through its prey.

## Underbelly

Their bellies are white, which is where they get their name from.

## Gill slits

There are 5 pairs of gill slits positioned on both sides of its head, which let water flow through and are used by the shark to breathe oxygen.



## FUN FACTS

- 1 The great white shark is ovoviviparous. This means that a shark pup grows inside an egg that hatches within it's mother.
- 2 Great white sharks are the largest predatory fish on earth.
- 3 They have an excellent sense of smell, and can detect blood from 5 km away.
- 4 Though they are the apex predator in the ocean, they are hunt by orcas.

