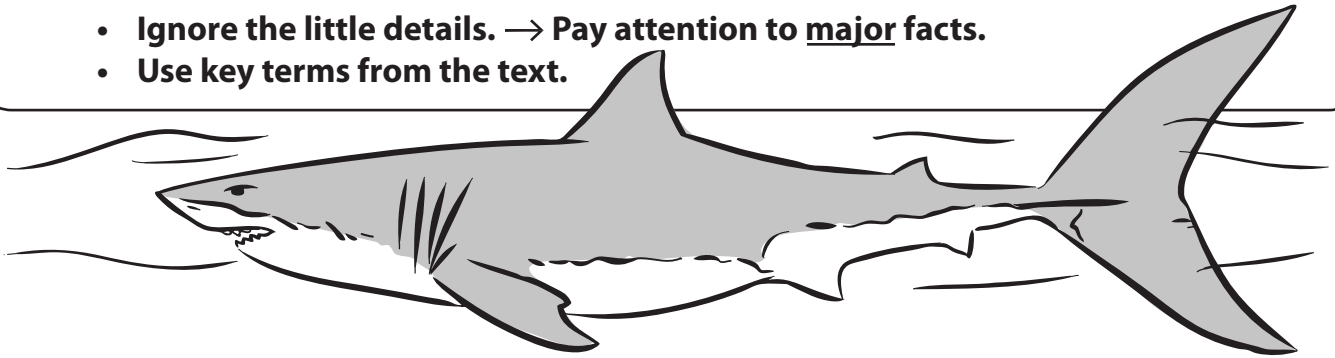


Writing a Nonfiction Summary: Sharks

A summary is a short description of the most important ideas and information in a text. A good nonfiction summary focuses on the important details and facts that help you best understand the text.

Tips:

- **Include the main idea.**
- **Ignore the little details. → Pay attention to major facts.**
- **Use key terms from the text.**



Sharks are known as the fiercest fish in the ocean. Sharks have been around for about 400 million years and are the top ocean predators. At the top of the food chain, sharks are feared by swimmers. However, these fish are also fascinating creatures.

You probably know sharks have very sharp teeth, but did you know they never run out of them? If a shark loses a tooth, another moves forward from within the shark's jaw where it keeps a nearly unlimited supply of replacement teeth. This way, it's almost impossible for a shark to end up without a full set of teeth. This is a phenomenon unique to the shark. No other animal in the world has teeth quite like the shark's. A shark can go through as many as 20,000 teeth in its lifetime!

While sharks have a reputation for being fierce and dangerous, not all sharks are ferocious carnivores. Some of the largest sharks are the most harmless. For example, the basking shark and the whale shark are two of the largest types of sharks, but they eat plankton. These sharks could be considered "gentle giants."

Some sharks are truly dangerous. The great white shark and the tiger shark are just two of the most well-known hunters. On the other hand, humans are also hunters. People kill thousands of sharks a year to make food and products to sell. Who do you think are the most dangerous predators?

Directions: Write a 3-4 sentence summary on the lines below.

Answers will vary

Sharks are unique animals. Some sharks are actually harmless to humans, while some are dangerous. Sharks have special abilities that help them always have teeth. Sharks are often hunted by people.