

Parent Signature: _____

What are sharks' teeth like?

Name _____

1 Teeth are the most important tool that a shark has. A shark may have 40 to several hundred of them. The teeth are lined up in rows inside its mouth. Most sharks use five or six rows at a time.

2 The oldest teeth are in the outside row. Newer teeth are flat against the inside part of the jaw. Sometimes a shark loses its outside teeth by biting on something too hard. A boat, for example, may have sharks' teeth left in its sides after an attack. But the shark does not have to worry. New teeth from the inside rows begin to move into place within 24 hours. They grow bigger as the shark grows bigger.

3 You can tell what kind of shark you are looking at by the shape of its teeth. Some sharks' teeth are wide triangles. Some are tall and narrow. Other sharks have notches in their teeth, and every edge cuts. Still other sharks' teeth are flat on top for crunching shellfish. A few sharks have very small teeth. But almost all sharks' teeth are as sharp as a razor. In fact, people once used them as weapons.



Mark the circle (○) beside the right answer.

- When a shark loses its teeth, it _____.
 - attacks
 - dies
 - gets new ones
 - eats shellfish
- Which word in paragraph 3 means V-shaped cuts?
 - triangles
 - notches
 - edge
 - crunching
- The story does not tell about the _____ of sharks' teeth.
 - number
 - color
 - shapes
 - uses
- Which paragraph tells how many teeth sharks have?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
- TALL is to SHORT as wide is to _____. Think how the first two words go together. Then mark the word that goes with wide in the same way.
 - flat
 - narrow
 - big
 - tall
- All sharks' teeth are tall and narrow.
 - True
 - False
 Most sharks' teeth are very sharp.
 - True
 - False
 A shark's oldest teeth are in the outside row.
 - True
 - False
- The story does not say, but we can decide that _____.
 - flat teeth cannot be sharp
 - all weapons have sharks' teeth in them
 - you do not have to kill a shark to get its teeth