

Answer Key

LOCATION DATA SHEET ANSWERS

SHARK	NEAREST COUNTRY	SURROUNDING OCEAN BASIN
Swell shark	United States (California coast)	Pacific ocean basin
Gray reef shark	French Polynesia	Pacific ocean basin
Great white shark	Australia	Indian ocean basin

SHARK SPECIES/ECOSYSTEM DATA SHEET ANSWERS

SHARK SPECIES	HABITAT	WHAT DOES IT EAT?	WHAT EATS IT?
Swell shark	Bottom of the ocean to depths of 120 feet	Fish, mollusks, crustaceans	Crabs, octopuses, sea lions, seals, other larger marine creatures
Gray reef shark	Ocean floor and open ocean	Cowfish, surgeonfish, butterfly fish, squid, octopus, shrimp, lobster	Silvertip sharks, fishermen, hammerhead sharks
Great white shark	Open ocean	Seals, sea lions, dolphins, sea turtles, skates, stingrays	Killer whales, humans, larger great white sharks

Shark Threat Data Sheet Answers

THREAT	HOW IS THIS A THREAT TO SHARKS?	THINK OF SOME POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Predators and larger animals	The shark is not always the largest animal in the sea, and many are prey for larger sharks and mammals. Even great whites need to be careful of whom they attack because larger prey may fight back.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swell sharks – camouflage, wedge into tight spaces, create an awkward circle with their bodies • Gray reef sharks – swim erratically, attack, flee • Great white sharks – avoid too large or dangerous prey
Crab and lobster traps	Looking for food, swell sharks may poke their heads into the traps and become trapped themselves.	Answers will vary; some may include ideas regarding limiting the use of these fishing methods as well as frequent checking for and release of trapped sharks.
Trawls and gillnets	Swell sharks can be caught in trawls because they are bottom dwellers and slow swimmers. Some sharks may become entangled in gillnets as they twist and turn in an attempt to free themselves.	Answers will vary; some may include ideas regarding limiting the use of these fishing methods as well as frequent checking for and release of trapped sharks.
Longlines	Sharks may be attracted to fish already caught on the many hooks of a longline, then be snagged themselves.	Answers will vary; some may include ideas regarding limiting the use of these fishing methods as well as frequent checking for and release of trapped sharks.
Finning	Sharks are caught by fishermen whose only intent is to slice off their fins—discarding the shark body—for use in shark fin soup, a delicacy in Asian countries.	Answers will vary; some may include ideas regarding banning the use of sharks for food or setting limits on how many sharks can be caught each year.
Sport fisherman	Individuals seek out great whites to catch as trophies.	Answers will vary; as this is already illegal in many countries, ideas may reflect better enforcement of the regulations as well as better education of the public about the importance of maintaining this species in the wild.
Boat engines	Sharks don't have the use of hands to investigate their surroundings and generally use their mouths; coming too close to an interesting boat may hurt a shark because propellers can gash the body or slice off a fin.	Answers will vary; ideas may include limiting the number of boats allowed in some shark habitats or creating new boat designs that are less dangerous to sharks.

Reporting Data Answers

1. **Threats:** larger sharks, fish, mammals, crab and lobster traps, trawls and gillnets, longlines, finning practices, sport fishermen, and boat engines.
2. An increase in the shark's prey species and an imbalance of the ecosystem. Answers will vary to second part.
3. Answers will vary.
4. **Sample food chains:**
 - Fish/mollusks/crustaceans → **swell shark** → crabs/octopuses/sea lions/seals/larger
 - cowfish/surgeonfish/butterfly fish/squids/octopuses/shrimps/lobsters → **gray reef sharks** → silvertip sharks/fishermen/hammerhead sharks
 - seals/sea lions/dolphins/sea turtles/skates/stingrays → **great white shark** → killer whales/humans/larger great white sharks
5. Answers should reflect an imbalance of the respective ecosystem and an increase in the number of the prey species.
6. Answers will vary.