

Great White Shark

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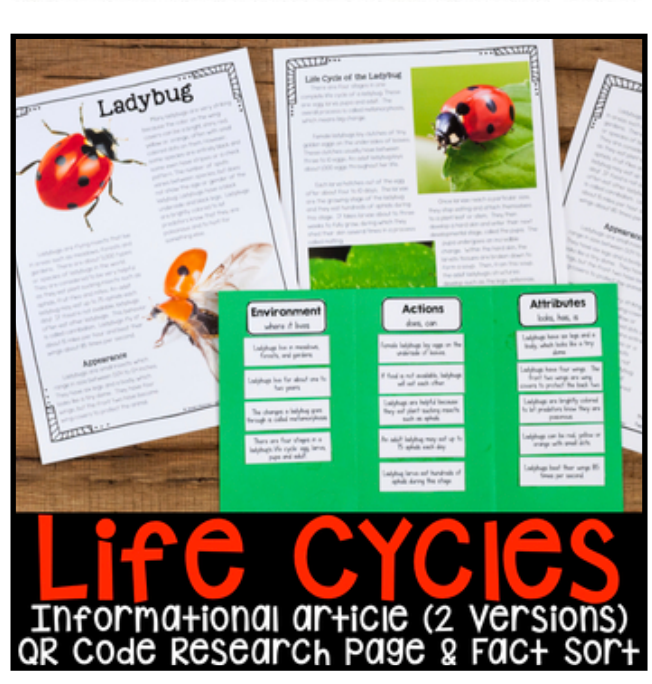
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LINK TO ACCESS DIGITAL VERSION

More Animal Articles

Each animal is available individually and as part of a habitat set.







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Teacher Notes

The following article is written at a second and third grade reading level. It follows a similar format to other Animal Articles and can be used for animal reports, informational reading, or text analysis. The sentence length, structure, and vocabulary have been controlled to make the text easier for young readers to understand.

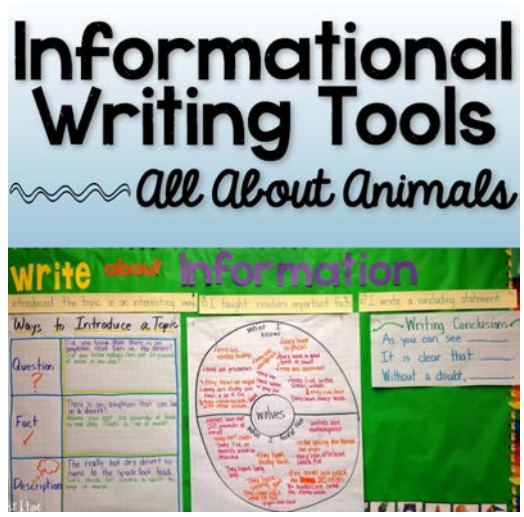
The article comes in two formats: One full-page black and white article and one two-page article with colorful pictures. The articles have the same text. The only difference is the pictures.

The QR codes are for websites and videos that give additional information about the animal. If you find any links that do not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of websites, including YouTube (via SafeTube). There are two pages of QR Codes. One page has the YouTube links and the other page has the SafeTube links. Make sure you can access YouTube or SafeTube at your school.

The fact sort sheets contain facts taken directly from the text. I use them to help students organize information from the text when writing about the animals. Either use the provided categories or have students do an open sort and create their own categories.

I often use these articles during our informational writing unit. You can find more about this unit in this blog post.





Websites

Great White Shark



Videos

Great White Shark

The great white shark is the largest predatory fish in the world. Some people think the great white is a monster because many movies have shown it to attack people. However, scientists say the movies are not true. If a great white attacks, it is because it mistook people for seals. The great white lives in cold coastal areas and open waters. It has been spotted near Australia, East Africa, Chile, and California.

Appearance

The great white has a large, torpedo-shaped body that helps it glide through the water smoothly. It can speed through the water for short distances at 15 miles per hour using its powerful tail. The top of its body is gray, while its belly is white. Most great whites are about 15 feet long, but some can be over 20 feet long. It weighs 2.5 tons or more. Females are usually larger than males.

Diet and Feeding

The great white likes to eat fish, other sharks, sharks, mollusks, sea birds, stingrays, and even dead whales. A large great white eats seals and sea lions, too, and sometimes it will even eat dolphins or orcas. It has 300 razor-sharp teeth to rip its food into smaller pieces. The great white swallows the pieces whole.

Great whites are excellent hunters. They can smell a drop of blood in 25 gallons of water. They can also detect the electromagnetic fields of other animals.

Offspring

Great white shark pups grow inside eggs. The pups hatch from the eggs while still inside their mother. After the pups hatch, the mother gives birth to them. They are usually born after one year. The female great white gives birth to 2-12 pups at a time.

When they are born, the pups are five feet long and weigh about 77 pounds. Male great whites become adults when they are 9-10 years old, females when they are 14-16 years old. Great whites can live up to 60 years, but most live until they are 30.

Predators and Threats

Scientists have a difficult time keeping track of the great white population. They believe the number of great whites is shrinking and consider them a vulnerable species. The biggest threats to the great white are overfishing and getting caught in fishing nets. When people overfish, they take away food from the great white. Without enough food, the great white will die. Great white sharks play an important role in their ecosystem. If they disappear, other animals will suffer, too.



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Text in Two Formats & QR Codes for Internet Research

Great White Shark

Fill in the matrix fc

Definition

Examples

Definition

Examples

Definition

electr

Examples

Definition

Examples

Name:

Great White Shark Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Definition

Characteristics

Examples

predatory

Non-Examples

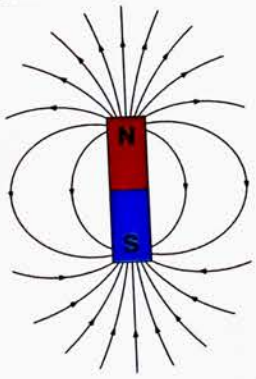
Definition

Characteristics

Examples

glide

Examples



relating to electric and magnetic fields

electromagnetic



baby

pup



all of one kind of animal living in a large area

population



can easily s hurt

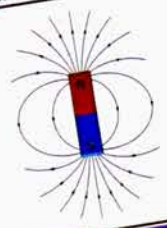
vulnerable

Vocabulary Cards & Activities

Name: _____

Great White Shark Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
		
		
		flying through the air with very little movement of the wings
		

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Name: _____

Great White Shark Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
	**population**	
	**overfishing**	catching too many fish in an area so there are not enough left to create more fish
		
		all the living things and nonliving things in an environment

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Great White Shark Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

predatory	**glide**	all of one kind of animal living in a large area	baby animal
electromagnetic	**pup**	relating to electric and magnetic fields	can easily get hurt

ecosystem

related to animals that hunt and eat other animals

vulnerable

Vocabulary Activities

Name: _____

Fact Sort

Sort the facts into categories.

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives
It has 300 razor-sharp teeth to rip its food into smaller pieces.	After the pups hatch, the mother gives birth to them.	
The female great white gives birth to 2-12 pups at a time.	It can speed through the water for short distances at 15 miles per hour using its powerful tail.	

Scientists have a difficult time keeping track of the great white population.

The great white shark is the largest predatory fish in the world.

They can smell a drop of blood in 25 gallons of water.

They are usually born after one year.

A large great white eats seals and sea lions, too, and sometimes it will even eat dolphins or orcas.

They believe the number of great whites is shrinking and consider them a vulnerable species.

The top of its body is gray, while its belly is white.

Great white shark pups grow inside eggs.

The great white has a large, torpedo-shaped body that helps it glide through the water smoothly.

Male great whites become adults when they are 9-10 years old, females when they are 14-16 years old.

The great white lives in cold coastal areas and open waters.

Great white sharks play an important role in their ecosystem.

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hatch from the eggs ll inside their mother.

white swallows the ces whole.

reats to the great fishing and getting fishing nets.

spotted near Africa, Chile, ornia.

ttacks, it is people for

ect the of othe

Fact Sort for Organizing Writing

Compare It

Name: _____

Choose another animal and compare the great white shark to that animal. How are they alike? How are they different?

Great White Shark

same

What makes the shark unique?

Describe a shark's habitat:

Write three facts about the shark:

Fact	Fact	Fact

Describe how sharks take care of their offspring.

I Wonder

Name: _____

What questions do you still have about the great white shark? Write them in the bubbles.

How can you find the answers to your questions?

Summary of the G

Name: ___

Habitat

Appearance

Diet & Feeding

Great White Shark Note Tak

Appearance

Habitat

Diet & Feeding

What I Rememb

1. What does a great white shark lo

2. Describe a shark's h

Great White Shark Cloze Read

Name: _____

Use the word bank to fill in the sentences.

smell	300	predatory	glide
seals	eggs	shrinking	whole

The great white shark is the largest _____ fish in the world. The great white lives in cold coastal areas and open waters.

The great white has a large, torpedo-shaped body that helps it _____ through the water smoothly. It can speed through the water for short distances using its powerful tail. The top of its body is gray, while its belly is white.

The great white likes to eat fish, other sharks, sharks, mollusks, sea birds, stingrays, and even dead whales. A large great white eats _____ and sea lions, too, and sometimes it will even eat dolphins or orcas. It has _____ razor-sharp teeth to rip its food into smaller pieces. The great white swallows the pieces _____. Great whites are excellent hunters. They can _____ a drop of blood in 25 gallons of water. They can also detect the electromagnetic fields of other animals.

Comprehension Activities

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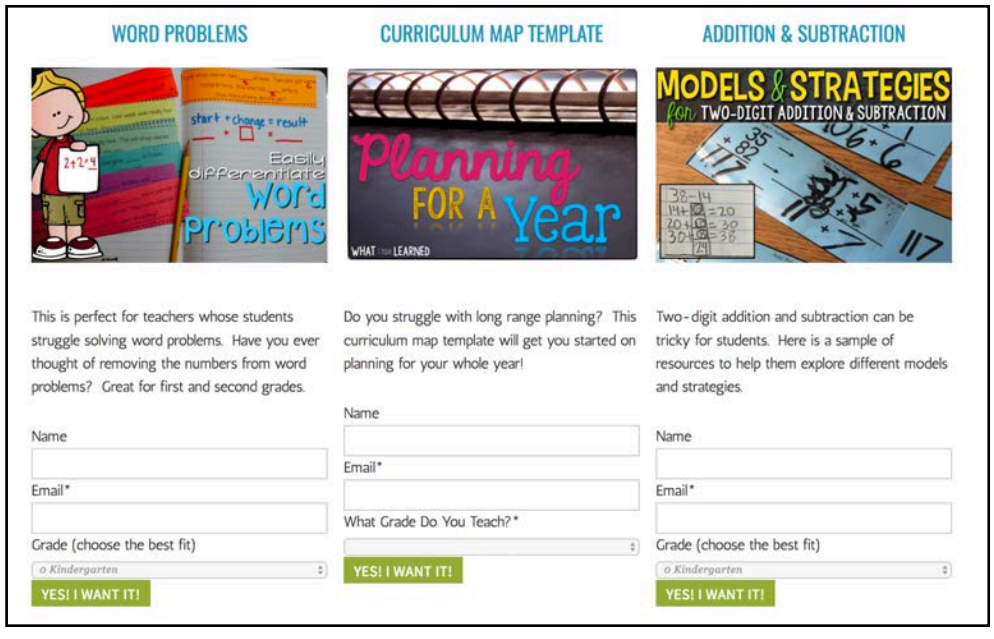
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