

## All about sharks & rays

The oceans and our western Indian ocean are home to many creatures, including sharks and rays.

Read on, and we will take you on a journey to the ocean to see common sharks and rays.



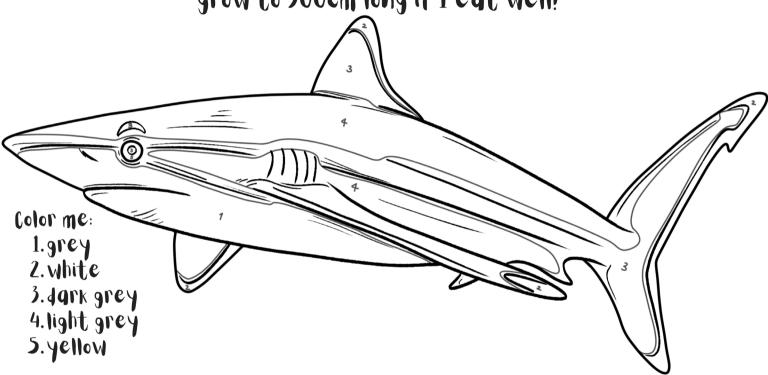
# Did Yoy Know?

Baby sharks are called 'pups'

Some sharks lay eggs while other sharks and rays give birth to live Young Sharks eat other fish. That means, sharks are predators!

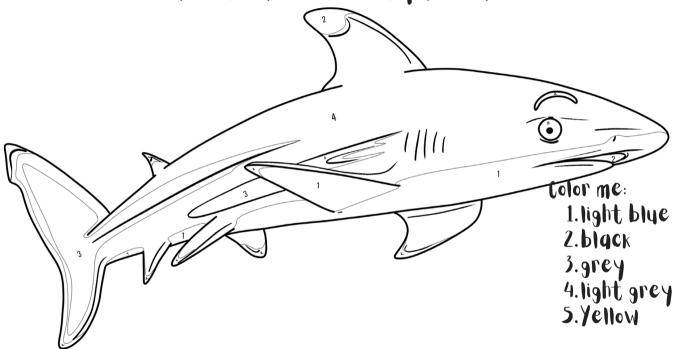
> Sharks and rays have been on earth for about 400 million years!

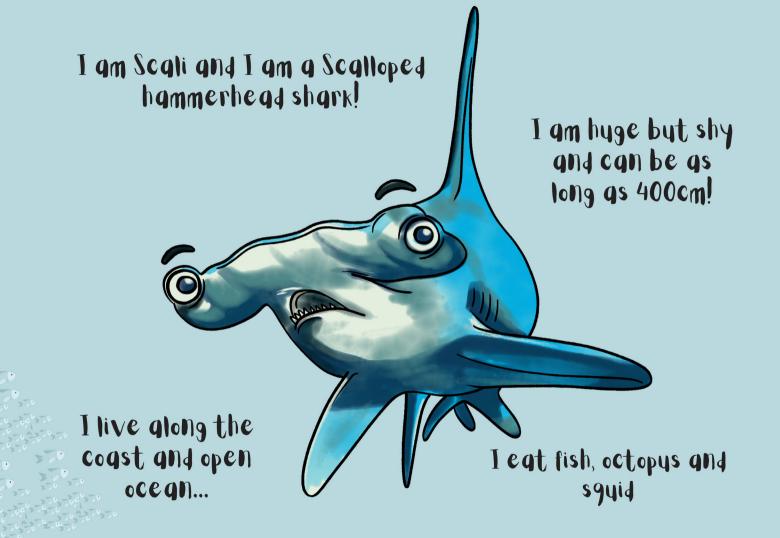
#### My name is Silvy and I am a Silvertip reef shark. I can grow to 300cm long if I eat well!

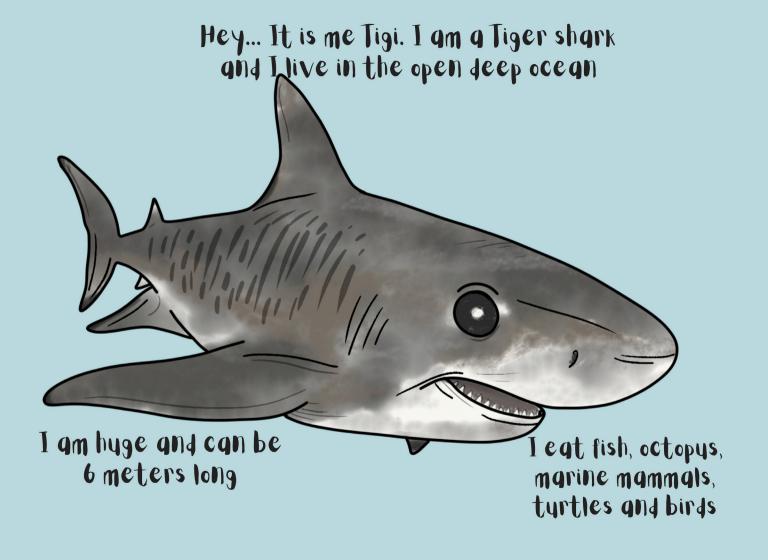


I live on the reef and eat small fish, octopus and shellfish!

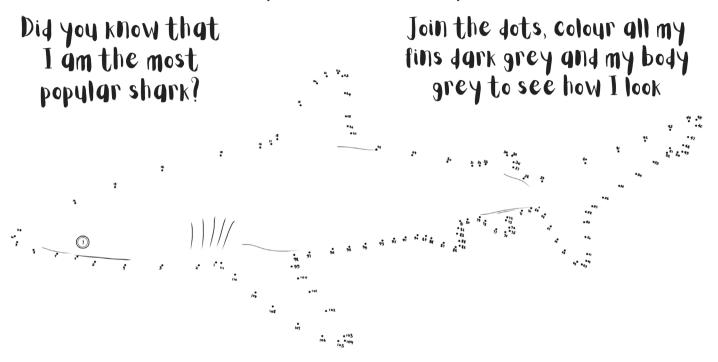
### I'm Blacky and I am a Blacktip reef shark. I live in the reefs and eat small fish, octopus and shellfish.







#### I am Grey and I am a Grey reef shark



I am over 2 meters long and I live on coral reefs and along the coast

#### I am Bully and I am a Bull shark

I am over 3 meters long and big and live along the coast. Sometimes I swim up rivers to eat fish

> I eat fish, octopys, marine mammals, tyrtles and birds

#### The local legend of the whale shark

An old man once said God was so happy when he created the whale shark.

He gave his angels handfuls of gold and silver coins to throw from heaven.

These coins landed on the back of the whale shark.

That is why the whale shark has magical markings that look like coins that shimmer in the syn when they swim near the top of the ocean.

#### I am Papa, and I am a whale shark

I am a gentle giant and one of the biggest sharks in the ocean

Did you know I can grow to 12 meters long?

I eat plankton and very small sea animals

I am witi and I am a white tip reef shark!

> I am called a white tip because the fin on top of my body has a white tip

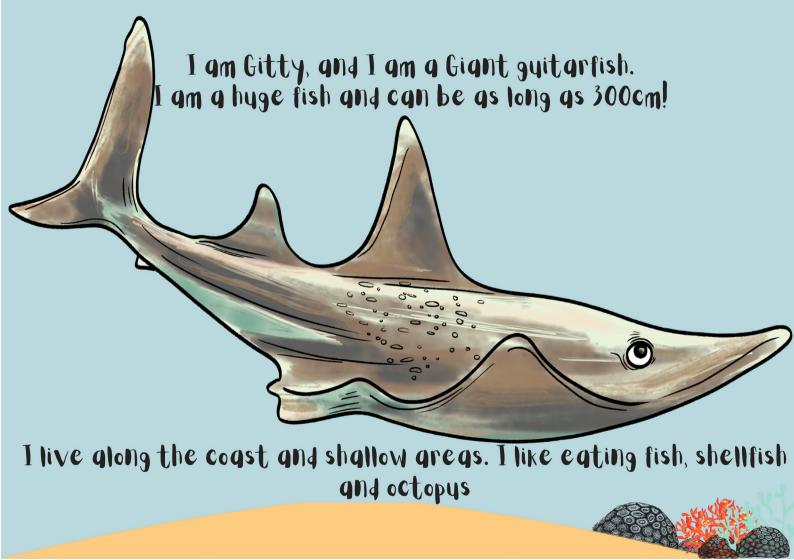
> > I am a cyrioys shark and eat small fish, octopys and sguid

I live on coral reefs and along the coast

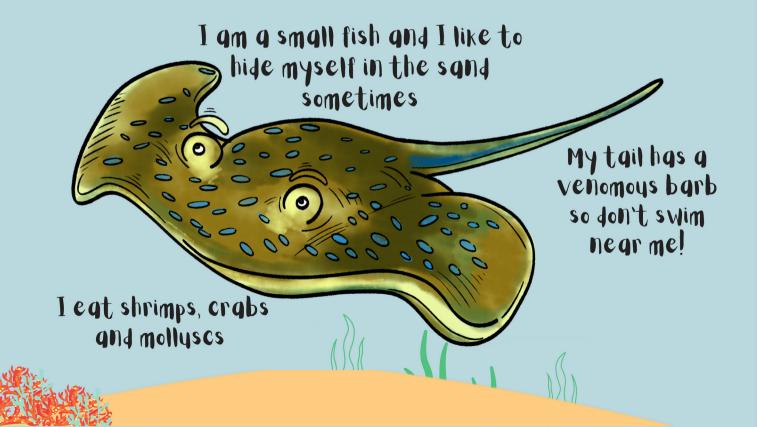
#### Hey, I am Leo and I am a Leopard shark. I am also known as a zebra shark

## I am over 2 meters long and I live on coral reefs and Sandy bottoms

#### I eat fish, mollyscs and shellfish



#### I'm Blue, and I'm a Bluespotted ribbontail stingray!



I'm Sy and I'm a Spotted Eagle ray!

Did you know I can grow to be 3 meters wide?!

I eat clams, octopus, shellfish and small fishes I don't get angry easy but I can sting you with my tail if you make me sad



Sharks and rays take long to reproduce, which puts them at a high risk of disappearing from the planet. When sharks and rays disappear from the earth, they become 'extinct'.

Did you know? Sharks and rays are threatened by,

Pollution

Destructive fishing (eqting

shark fin) overfishing Destroyed Threats habitats

Sharks and rays help keep the ocean clean and healthy by eating the sick and weak fish.

Now that you know sharks and rays are very important, you should be a sharks and rays champion and spread the message for other people to know.

Protect our sharks and rays!

This introductory children's guide to the common sharks and rays of East Africa has been produced by CORDIO East Africa and Coral Reef Care for environmental education purposes.

### Papa & Ray Produced by CORDIO East Africa | Coral Reef Care

Contributors: Peter Musembi | Rolf Voorhuis | Dr Melita Samoilys Design and Illustrations: Frank Rogan, Bado Blak

© CORDIO East Africa and Coral Reef Care - 2021

CORAL REEF CARE

CORDIO East Africa