

Great Hammerhead Shark

The great hammerhead shark is the largest of the nine species of hammerhead shark. It can live for more than 40 years and can grow to more than 16 feet (5 meters) long. Great hammerhead sharks are ground sharks that have a wide, T-shaped head called a cephalofoil. They eat many different kinds of fish and shellfish, but their cephalofoil makes them particularly good at finding and catching rays.



This is where great hammerhead sharks have been found around the world



Did you know?
Hammerhead sharks can get suntans. Their skin becomes darker when they spend time in sunlit shallow seas.

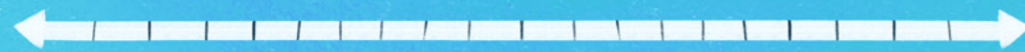


Great hammerhead sharks live in the shallower, warmer waters found along reefs and coastlines.



Hammerhead schools

Great hammerhead sharks are usually found alone, but some other kinds of hammerhead sharks will come together in groups. The scalloped hammerhead, for example, has been found in large schools made up of hundreds of sharks.



Length: 16 feet (5 meters)
Mass: 507 pounds (230 kilograms)

Eyes

With its eyes at the furthest edges of its hammer-shaped head, this shark can see above, below, forwards, and backwards all at once. The one place it can't see is directly in front of its own snout.



Snout

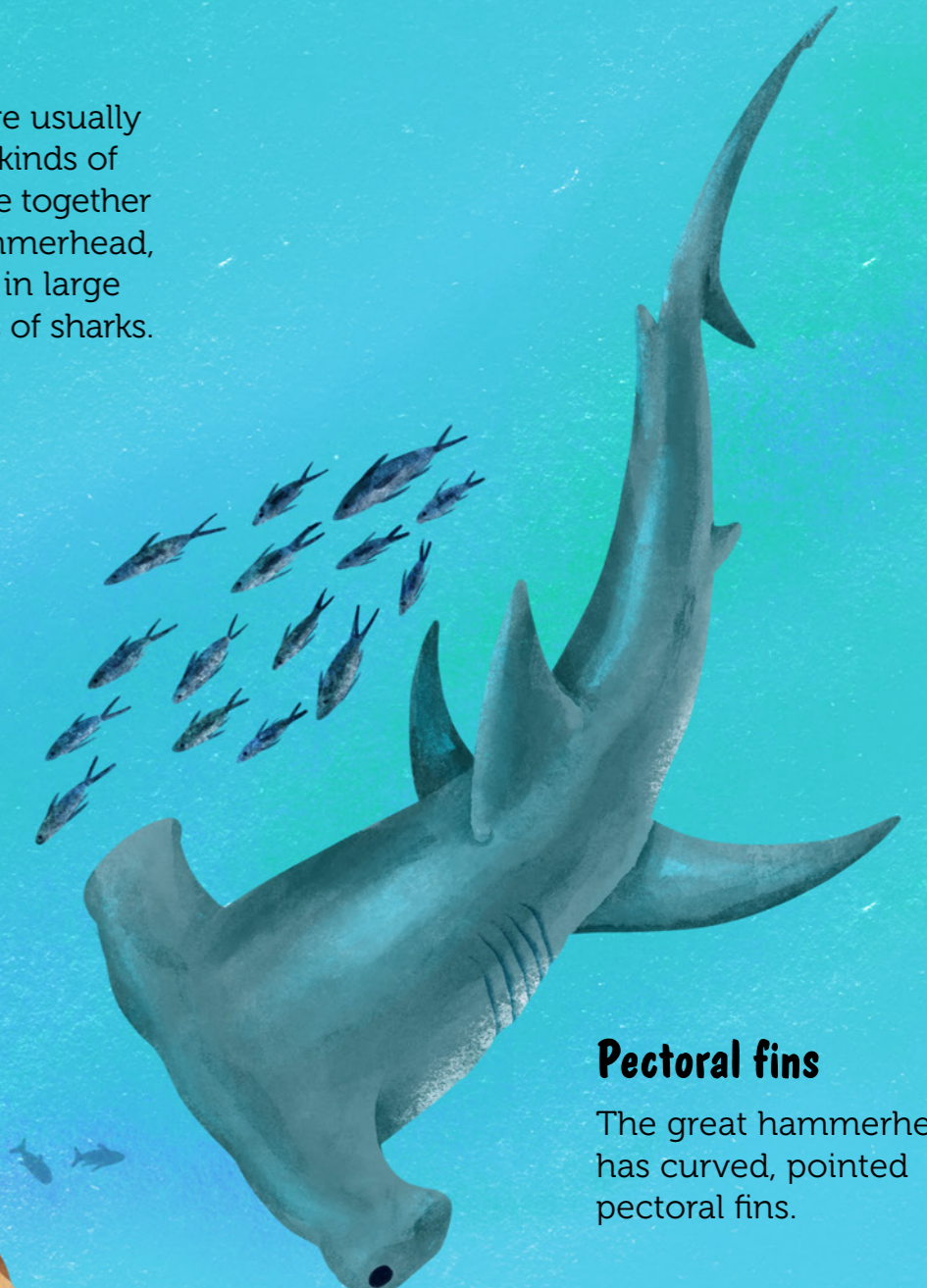
The wide cephalofoil has room for many electric sensors, which allow great hammerhead sharks to scan a wide area while they hunt for rays buried in the ocean floor.

Mouth

The great hammerhead shark has a small, curved mouth on the underside of its body behind its cephalofoil.

Hammer

Rays can swim very fast. Great hammerheads use their heads to ram and pin down their prey so they can't escape.



Pectoral fins

The great hammerhead has curved, pointed pectoral fins.