

# Should You Be Afraid of Sharks?

Many people are afraid of sharks. They think sharks are monsters. But one scientist thinks people should not be scared of sharks.

## Sharks Are Picky Eaters

Sharks do not like the taste of people. That's what Dr. Peter Klimley says. Klimley is a scientist who studies sharks. He says sharks would rather eat seals and sea lions than people. Seals and sea lions have a thick layer of fat on them. Eating that fat gives sharks energy. Klimley says people's bodies do not have enough fat to fill up a shark.

Klimley thinks that sharks should be afraid of people. Each year, people kill about 100 million sharks. Some people like to eat shark meat. And some sharks die because they live in water that is polluted.

Klimley says that at least seven kinds of sharks are endangered. The number of those sharks has dropped in the past ten years. Klimley hopes that people will help protect sharks.

## Fast Facts

- There are at least 340 kinds of sharks.
- A shark's liver is filled with oil. This oil is lighter than water and keeps the shark from sinking.
- Sharks have several rows of teeth. Sharks often lose their teeth while eating. New teeth quickly grow to replace the teeth that are lost.
- A shark can swim 3 feet per second.

## Interview With a Shark Expert

*Weekly Reader* talked to Dr. Peter Klimley about his work. Here's what he had to say.

***Weekly Reader (WR):*** Why did you decide to study sharks?

**Peter Klimley (PK):** I wanted to study how sharks behave. I wanted to get into their world and learn everything about them.

***WR:*** Why is it important to study sharks?

**PK:** To me, sharks are a mystery that I wanted to learn more about.

**WR:** Should we be afraid of sharks?

**PK:** No. Many kinds of sharks are not dangerous. I think sharks bite people by mistake.

**WR:** Which kind of shark is your favorite?

**PK:** The hammerhead shark. I have studied the hammerhead for most of my life. I am often called "Dr. Hammerhead"!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the passage, why don't sharks sink in the water?

- A Sharks don't sink because the water is polluted.
- B Sharks don't sink because their liver is filled with oil.
- C Sharks don't sink because they eat seals and sea lions.
- D Sharks don't sink because they are very light weight.

2. Which of the following does the author describe first in the passage?

- A The author describes how sharks lose their teeth and replace them quickly.
- B The author describes the work of Dr. Peter Klimley.
- C The author describes different interesting facts about sharks.
- D The author describes reasons why sharks are not as dangerous as people think.

3. The passage implies that

- A sharks only eat seals and sea lions
- B sharks are extremely dangerous to people
- C sharks are misunderstood creatures
- D sharks are endangered and need protection

4. Read the following sentence: "Klimley thinks that sharks should be afraid of people. Each year, people kill about 100 million sharks. Some people like to eat shark meat. And some sharks die because they live in water that is polluted."

In this sentence the word **polluted** most nearly means

- A blue-colored
- B pure
- C very dirty
- D cold

5. This passage is mostly about

- A sharks and why they may not be as dangerous as people think
- B sharks and why they eat seals and sea lions
- C sharks and why they bite people
- D sharks and why they grow new teeth quickly

6. What are two reasons that sharks should be afraid of humans?

---

---

---

7. Why might a person be safer if they are swimming near sea lions in shark-infested waters?

---

---

---

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Dr. Klimley says that sharks should be afraid of people \_\_\_\_\_ people kill 65 million sharks a year.

- A so
- B although
- C but
- D since

9. Read the following sentence.

*Dr. Peter Klimley studies sharks so that he can learn everything he can about them.*

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

What is the main verb of this sentence? studies

Who studies? \_\_\_\_\_

What does he study? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**10a.** Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **mystery**.

1. To many people, what happens to us after we die is a mystery.
2. The teacher thought it was a mystery why the student was so unhappy even though she got an "A" on her project.
3. Roberta thought that the paper written in Russian was a mystery because she did not understand it.
4. The floating lights in the night sky were a mystery to the people since no one could identify or explain what the lights were.
5. The detectives worked hard to solve the mystery of who had robbed the bank as nobody knew who had done it.

**10b.** Which image best shows someone involved with a mystery?



**11.** If you hear the weather announcer say you should bring an umbrella because it will rain today, is that a mystery? Why or why not?

---

---

---

---

## Teacher Guide &amp; Answers

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 600

**Featured Text Structure:** Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

**Passage Summary:** The passage describes the work of Dr. Peter Klimley, a scientist who studies sharks, and gives the reasons he believes that sharks are not a great threat to people. The passage also gives facts about sharks, and ends with an interview with Dr. Klimley.

1. According to the passage, why don't sharks sink in the water?

- A Sharks don't sink because the water is polluted.
- B Sharks don't sink because their liver is filled with oil.**
- C Sharks don't sink because they eat seals and sea lions.
- D Sharks don't sink because they are very light weight.

2. Which of the following does the author describe first in the passage?

- A The author describes how sharks lose their teeth and replace them quickly.
- B The author describes the work of Dr. Peter Klimley.
- C The author describes different interesting facts about sharks.
- D The author describes reasons why sharks are not as dangerous as people think.**

3. The passage implies that

- A sharks only eat seals and sea lions
- B sharks are extremely dangerous to people
- C sharks are misunderstood creatures**
- D sharks are endangered and need protection

4. Read the following sentence: "Klimley thinks that sharks should be afraid of people. Each year, people kill about 100 million sharks. Some people like to eat shark meat. And some sharks die because they live in water that is polluted."

In this sentence the word **polluted** most nearly means

- A blue-colored
- B pure
- C very dirty**
- D cold

5. This passage is mostly about

- A sharks and why they may not be as dangerous as people think**
- B sharks and why they eat seals and sea lions
- C sharks and why they bite people
- D sharks and why they grow new teeth quickly

6. What are two reasons that sharks should be afraid of humans?

**Suggested answer:** Sharks should be afraid of humans because humans kill millions of sharks every year. Humans also pollute the water that sharks live in, and some sharks die as a result [paragraph 3]

7. Why might a person be safer if they are swimming near sea lions in shark-infested waters?

**Suggested answer:** A person might be safer near sea lions in shark-infested waters because sharks prefer eating sea lions to eating people. A hungry shark may be more likely to attack the sea lion than the person. [paragraph 2]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Dr. Klimley says that sharks should be afraid of people \_\_\_\_\_ people kill 65 million sharks a year.

- A so
- B although
- C but
- D since

9. Read the following sentence.

*Dr. Peter Klimley studies sharks so that he can learn everything he can about them.*

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

What is the main verb of this sentence? studies

Who studies? **Dr. Peter Klimley**

What does he study? **he studies sharks**

Why? **so that he can learn everything he can about them**

10. ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

**Vocabulary Word:** mystery

**Step 1:** Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (mys · ter · y)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is mystery. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "mystery."]

**Step 2:** Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "Mystery means something that is not understood or known about."
- b. Teacher says: "In the text, Dr. Klimley says that "sharks are a mystery that I wanted to learn more about." This means he thought sharks weren't understood or known much about and he wanted to know more."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "mystery."]

**Step 3:** Practice the word



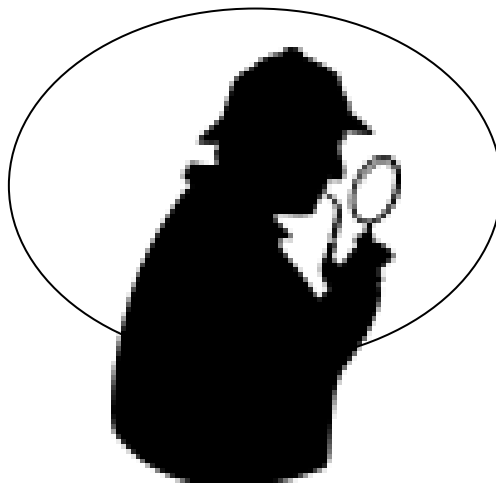
Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

- 10a.**
1. To many people, what happens to us after we die is a mystery.
  2. The teacher thought it was a mystery why the student was so unhappy even though she got an "A" on her project.
  3. Roberta thought that the paper written in Russian was a mystery because she did not understand it.
  4. The floating lights in the night sky were a mystery to the people since no one could identify or explain what the lights were.
  5. The detectives worked hard to solve the mystery of who had robbed the bank as nobody knew who had done it.

**Step 4:** Check for student understanding

This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

- 10b.** Which image best shows someone involved with a mystery?



- 11.** If you hear the weather announcer say you should bring an umbrella because it will rain today, is that a mystery? Why or why not?

**Suggested answer:** No because it would be a reasonable thing to do to use an umbrella when it rains.

*Suggested Additional Vocabulary:* polluted, replace