

Shark: Apex Predator

- 1** What is the title of the book? Do you know what an 'apex predator' is? If not, turn to pages 6–7 and the glossary to find out. Can you think of any other apex predators in the animal world?
- 2** Turn to pages 10–11. What is the purpose of the two pictures? What do they show? How do the labels help you to understand the anatomy of a shark?
- 3** Read pages 16–17 about how tiger sharks interact with their habitat. Describe how the presence of tiger sharks in Shark Bay impacts on the dolphins, dugongs and sea snakes that live there.
- 4** Read pages 24–25 about bull sharks. What are bull sharks famous for? Name three rivers where bull sharks have been found. What is an amazing example of how bull sharks are adaptable?
- 5** Read about mako sharks on pages 30–31. Name a difference between mako sharks and most other sharks and fish. How does having warm muscles help mako sharks swim fast?

6 Look at the map and caption on page 34. What is the purpose of the map? What do the red areas on the map show? Can you name any of the countries where hammerhead sharks can be found?

7 Look at pages 42–43 about basking sharks. What is the purpose of the two sidebars on these pages? Do you think the sidebars are a helpful addition to the main text?

8 Read about great white sharks on pages 48–49. What are AUVs? What two reasons does the author give for why AUVs are helpful to scientists studying great white sharks?

9 Read pages 56–59. Do you think the author believes it is important to protect sharks? What makes you say this? How do you feel about protecting sharks?

10 Turn to the glossary and find the text in brackets: [am-POOL-ah of lor-un-ZEE-nee]. What does this text show you? How is it divided up? Why do you think ‘POOL’ and ‘ZEE’ are in capital letters? (Say the words out loud and listen carefully.) Now try writing your own version for another word in this book.

Answers

- 1 *Shark: Apex Predator*; an apex predator is at the top of a food web with few or no predators of its own; answers will vary, e.g. lion, polar bear.
- 2 to show the names of the different body parts (the anatomy) of a shark; answers will vary
- 3 When the sharks appear, some animals like dolphins and dugongs move to safer, deeper water; other animals like sea snakes hide in seagrass.
- 4 Swimming in freshwater rivers; the Amazon River, the Mississippi River and the Breede River; they can switch between freshwater and saltwater environments.
- 5 They are warm-blooded; they can take off at top speed instantly.
- 6 to show where hammerhead sharks live around the world, answers will vary
- 7 to provide additional interesting information / facts about basking sharks; answers will vary
- 8 Autonomous underwater vehicles; they can 'swim' with the sharks without affecting the shark's behaviour and they don't get damaged / hurt by any bumps or bites from the shark.
- 9 Yes; The author says "sharks ... are essential to their ecosystems" and "when we protect apex predators, we protect entire ecosystems"; answers will vary.
- 10 How to pronounce the word; into syllables; these syllables are emphasised when spoken; answers will vary.