

## I'M A SHARK EXPERT!

Now that your child has learned all about sharks, they are officially a shark expert! Help your child write about their favorite shark in the spaces provided. When they are finished, ask them to share their shark fact sheet with friends and family.

This is a \_\_\_\_\_ shark.

This shark is as big as a \_\_\_\_\_.

This shark eats \_\_\_\_\_.

Fun facts about this shark: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## INTERACTIVE READING GUIDE

# *The Shark Book*

by Pamela Chanko

How big is the biggest shark in the world? Can a shark glow in the dark? This fascinating nonfiction book is designed for children and grownups to read together. It includes incredible photographs plus two kinds of text: simple text for beginning readers to read or follow along with, and more detailed text for adults to read aloud. This is a perfect book for an older family member and a first grader to curl up and enjoy reading—side by side!

### Create Successful Reading Habits

When you read a book multiple times with your child, they:

- increase vocabulary development
- improve word recognition
- develop fluency

Fluency is the ability to read words and sentences accurately, at a good pace, and with expression.

Research this year from the What Works Clearinghouse shows that children can learn more from books when they are read multiple times. When a teacher reads the same book 2–4 times, children will become familiar with the content and might “read” to themselves or others. Reading books multiple times also allows teachers opportunities to review topics that were taught during the previous readings of the books.

## WORD WORK

Help your child identify **syllables**, which are words or parts of words with one vowel sound. Here is an example of how to do this using a word from the book. If your child cannot identify the syllables, tell them how many there are and keep practicing with other words as you read.

Ask your child to put their elbow on a table and place a closed fist right below their chin. Then, say the following:

"Say the word *hammerhead*." (p. 4)

"How many times did your chin touch your fist when you said the word?"

After they give a response say, "Three times. ham / mer / head.

That means there are 3 syllables in the word *hammerhead*."

Help your child identify syllables by selecting a few words throughout the book to practice.

## TALK ABOUT NEW AND INTERESTING WORDS

When children encounter unfamiliar words, take a moment to talk about the words using child-friendly explanations or definitions. Here are some interesting words and child-friendly definitions to discuss from the book:

### **slash** (p. 9)

If someone **slashes** something, they make a long, deep cut in it. Sawsharks **slash** their snouts from side to side to cut into their food.

### **fierce** (p. 10)

When something is **fierce**, it is strong and dangerous. The great white shark is **fierce** because it swims very fast and can burst out of the water to eat other animals.

### **jagged** (p. 12)

Something that is **jagged** has a rough, uneven shape with sharp edges. Sharks have **jagged** teeth that help them rip apart their food.

### **flows** (p. 13)

When something **flows**, it moves in a smooth and easy way. Water **flows** smoothly over a shark's gills so that they can easily breathe underwater.

## ASK QUESTIONS AND MAKE CONNECTIONS

Help your child understand what they read by pausing to have conversations before, during, and after they engage with a book. Encourage them to make connections to their lives, other books, and the world around them. Have your child go to the page number listed to help them answer the questions.

### **Before:**

- What do you know about sharks?
- Have you ever seen a shark before?

### **During:**

- Is this a made up story (fiction) or a book with real information (nonfiction)?  
How do you know?
- Look at the labels under each shark. What do they tell you? (p. 4)
- What type of vehicle can whale sharks grow to be as long as? (p. 6)
- What is unusual, or different, about a hammerhead shark? (p. 8)
- How are fins helpful to a shark? (p. 14)
- What is something that humans have in common with sharks? (p. 16)
- What does a shark egg look like? (p. 18)

### **After:**

- Which shark do you think is the most **fierce**? Why?
- Which shark is the least **fierce**? Why?

## FUN ACTIVITY

After reading *The Shark Book*, help your child complete the activity on the back page.