



Du dun, du dun....

Volume 1, Issue 6
By S. Harrington

Visit the California Academy of Sciences
www.calacademy.org (See Explore Science and Life Forms)

Life Science—For Real!
A Publication of
Reagan High School

Start of Jaws — The Great White Shark



Image Accessed 06/11/2008
<http://www.elasmodiver.com/Sharkive%20images/Great-White-Shark-001.jpg>



attacks are thought to be cases of **mis-taken identity** (in other words, the shark thought it was biting a seal or a turtle). Their diet also includes tuna, sea lions, and

be 5,000+ pounds. Their mouths are filled with up to 3,000 3” inch teeth with **ser-rated** edges. In fact, their scientific name comes from the Greek words *carcharos* for “ragged” and *odon* for “tooth”. They have an excellent sense of smell (sensing blood in the water up to three miles away) and can **detect** the **electro-magnetic fields** that are produced in some animals.

Taxonomy:

Domain	Eukarya
Kingdom	Animal
Phylum	Chordate
Class	Chondrichthyes...
Species	<i>Carcharodon carcharius</i>

Steven Spielberg’s *Jaws* made him famous. The Great White Shark is not, however, a mindless killer as once thought. Research shows that sharks, specifically great white sharks, are **predators** like any other. When humans are attacked by Great Whites, scientists believe that they are “sample biting”; humans are not generally the main course on the dinner menu. Most

even birds.

The Great White shark is the largest predatory fish on the planet. It has been around for 20 million years. They are at the top of the food chain in their **niche**. They inhabit all of the oceans on the planet except for the polar oceans.

They are called “great” because they grow from between 15 to 20 feet in length and can



Image Accessed 06/12/2008
http://www.district87.org/Sheridan/sheridan/sheridan_files/S%20pages/teeth.jpg

Vocabulary to Know:

- * **Predators**—one that obtains food by killing another animal; a hunter
- * **Mistaken Identity**—to confuse with another
- * **Niche**—a habitat with the factors necessary for an organisms survival
- * **Serrated**—notched or jagged, like the edges of a saw
- * **Detect**—to discover the presence, to feel
- * **Electromagnetic field**—magnetism developed because of the interactions between charged particles; static electricity is a simple example

Seeking Adventure? The Explorers Club!!

Richard Ellis, co-author of a the book The Great White Shark is a marine biologist and member of the Explorers Club, a non-profit organization that has been around since 1904.

The Explorers Club is dedicated to the advancement of field research and scientific

exploration. Historical members include the first on Mount Everest, firsts to the North and South Poles, and the first to the deepest point in the ocean, as well as the moon! “*The Explorers Club promotes the scientific exploration of land, sea, air, and space in the physical, natural and biological sciences.*”

The good news is that the Explorers Club has a student group and offers grant money, scholarships, mentor training with real scientists, and many opportunities to travel.



See www.explorers.org