



Many sharks becoming extinct

Fishing is starting to have a very bad effect on shark numbers in the world's oceans.

A special organisation called IUCN watches endangered animals and did a study on sharks. They say too much fishing could threaten up to a third of all shark species.

Many sharks are accidentally caught by fishermen, because of the big nets they use. Boats that are fishing for tuna and swordfish often catch sharks as well.

But many sharks are also caught on purpose. Shark fishermen catch sharks because they want to take their fins. In some parts of the world, shark fin soup is a very popular kind of dish in restaurants.

Two types of hammerhead sharks have now been listed as endangered, and many others are also in serious danger.



Listen to this news story!

www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090702.html





A. Reading Skills

Word Power – Use a dictionary and write down what these words mean:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| ① effect | ⇒ | ⑥ accidentally | ⇒ |
| ② organisation | ⇒ | ⑦ (on) purpose | ⇒ |
| ③ endangered | ⇒ | ⑧ fin | ⇒ |
| ④ threaten | ⇒ | ⑨ popular | ⇒ |
| ⑤ species | ⇒ | ⑩ list | ⇒ |

Reading Questions

1 What is this news story about?

- A. What sharks eat
- B. Sharks in danger
- C. Where sharks live
- D. Shark fin soup

2 What is threatening sharks?

- A. Restaurants
- B. Swordfish
- C. IUCN
- D. Too much fishing

3 How many shark species could be in danger?

4 Why do shark fishermen catch sharks?

5 What do you think *endangered* means?





B. News Extra: Finning



Listen to this News Extra! www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090702.html



Missing words help

cut | valuable | swim
 cruel | special | ocean
 horrible | survive | soup
 shark | stop | fins | hardly

Listen and fill in the gaps

There is _____ kind of shark fishing called "finning". The fishermen catch the sharks and _____ all of the fins, and then throw the sharks back into _____ – usually still alive.

Shark fins are _____ because they are popular _____. The other meat on _____ is not very valuable, so that is why the fishermen throw the sharks back into the water after they have taken the _____.

This is _____ sharks. They are seriously hurt when their fins are cut off, but they also need their fins _____ in the water. Without their fins, they _____ move, and they do _____ long in the ocean.

Because finning is quite _____ sharks, some people in the world want this kind of fishing _____.

True or False?

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Shark fins are very valuable. | T / F |
| 2. Shark fishermen are kind to the sharks they catch. | T / F |
| 3. Sharks don't use their fins much in the water. | T / F |
| 4. Sharks don't survive long without their fins. | T / F |





C. Talk Time!

Person A

- ⇒ **This is a nice restaurant, Dad!**
- B. Yes it is, isn't it? Do you want to try the shark fin soup? It's great!
- ⇒ **Um, no thanks. I heard about finning. It's quite cruel to sharks.**
- B. Oh, really?
- ⇒ **Yes, it is.**
- B. Well, remember that we eat a lot of different animals – not just sharks, you know.
- ⇒ **Yeah, I know. But we shouldn't be cruel in the way we hunt them.**

Person B

- A. This is a nice restaurant, Dad!
- ⇒ **Yes it is, isn't it? Do you want to try the shark fin soup? It's great!**
- A. Um, no thanks. I heard about finning. It's quite cruel to sharks.
- ⇒ **Oh, really?**
- A. Yes, it is.
- ⇒ **Well, remember that we eat a lot of different animals – not just sharks, you know.**
- A. Yeah, I know. But we shouldn't be cruel in the way we hunt them.

Ask the class!

- ❶ **Where are we?**
⇒ *In a restaurant.*
- ❷ **What did my dad suggest we eat?**
⇒ *Shark fin soup.*
- ❸ **Why don't I want to eat shark soup?**
⇒ *Because it's quite cruel to sharks.*
- ❹ **Do you agree with me?**
⇒ ?

Ask the class!

- ❶ **Who am I?**
⇒ *Dad*
- ❷ **What do I think of shark fin soup?**
⇒ *It's great*
- ❸ **What did I say we should remember?**
⇒ *We eat a lot of different animals.*
- ❹ **Should I keep eating shark soup?**
⇒ ?





D. Class Discussion

Questions	❶ Do you like sharks or are you scared of them?	❷ Have you ever seen a real shark? Tell me about it!	❸ What do you think about "finning"?
<u>MY</u> Answers			
Friend 1			
Friend 2			
Friend 3			





E. Write an email

1 You got an email from your friend:

Hiya!

I really need your help! I have to do a school project about sharks. I'm going to make a poster and talk about it to the class.

What should I put on the poster? What should I talk about?

I really need your ideas! Can you help?

From Ryan

2 What should your friend put on the poster and talk about?

Write an email answer to your friend below:





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Teacher's Notes

For ideas on how to apply various activities with the different lesson stages, please visit:

http://www.englishraven.com/wnk_teachers.html



Link to archive version of news page:

www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090702.html

Answer Keys:

A. Reading Skills

1. B
2. D
3. A third (of all shark species)
4. To take their fins
5. In danger (of dying out)

B. News Extra: Finning

There is **a special** kind of shark fishing called "finning". The fishermen catch the sharks and **cut off** all of the fins, and then throw the sharks back into **the ocean** – usually still alive.

Shark fins are **very valuable** because they are popular **in soup**. The other meat on **a shark** is not very valuable, so that is why the fishermen throw the sharks back into the water after they have taken the **fins off**.

This is **horrible for** sharks. They are seriously hurt when their fins are cut off, but they also need their fins **to swim** in the water. Without their fins, they **can hardly** move, and they do **not survive** long in the ocean.

Because finning is quite **cruel to** sharks, some people in the world want this kind of fishing **to stop**.

Culture Note

Shark fin soup is eaten and enjoyed in some cultures. For children in these cultures, it is important not to appear too disapproving or against their culinary culture, while still highlighting issues of cruelty to animals and endangering species.

True or False?

1. T
2. F
3. F
4. T

