Heads and Tails

Today, more than half of all shark species are less than 3 feet (1 m) long. But some species grow much larger and have unusual features.

The hammerhead shark has eyes on the ends of its head. It swings its head from side to side to see. Its head can grow up to half as long as its body.

The hammerhead shark measures around 12 feet (up to 4 m) in length. Yet it can be found swimming in water less than 3 feet (1 m) deep.

Thresher sharks use their tails to slap and slash other fish. This makes their **prey** easier to catch and eat. Their tails can grow as long as their bodies.

A thresher shark can grow up to 15 feet (5 m) long.

Teeth

Sharks often lose their teeth when they are catching their prey. So they are always growing new teeth. Sharks can have up to 3,000 teeth at a time. Shark teeth often grow in rows of 5. A shark can go through 30,000 teeth in a lifetime!

VET'S EXPLORE MATH

Pounds (lbs.) and ounces (oz.) are used to measure amounts of weight. Hint: 1 pound = 16 ounces

- **a.** A great white shark can eat 20 pounds in 1 mouthful. How many ounces is that?
- **b.** How many ounces are there in $\frac{1}{2}$ a pound?

Great Teeth

Great white sharks have sharp, jagged teeth for biting and tearing. They can take 20 pounds (9 kg) out of their prey in each bite!