

Shark Senses

Read the paragraph and using the word bank, fill in the blanks. Once you have read the completed paragraph, fill in the table on the next page by either drawing or writing how humans and sharks use their senses.

Sharks are amazing FISH! Sharks have the same five senses that humans have. Taste, touch, vision, smell, and HEARING.

Taste: Sharks do not like the taste of humans, we are NOT a part of their diet. Sharks eat marine animals like fish, crustaceans, and even mammals! Some sharks are FILTER FEEDERS. These sharks eat plankton and krill.

Sight: Sharks have very good eye sight and can detect prey even in the dark. Sharks have an extra eye lid called the NICTITATING MEMBRANE. This eyelid protects the sharks eye when they are hunting.

Smell: A sharks best sense is their smell. They can detect one drop of blood 1/4 of a mile away.

Hearing: Sharks do have ears even though you can't see them. They can hear very LOW pitched noises .

Touch: Scientists have learned that when sharks are turned upside down, the shark will not be able to move. This is called TONIC IMMOBILITY . Scientists sometimes do this to learn more about shark behavior and to help protect the species. Remember, you should never touch wildlife!

Extra senses: Sharks also have extra senses that are used to help them detect vibrations and electric signals in the water. This helps them navigate their way around the ocean and find prey to eat. First, they use their LATERAL LINE to detect prey that is thrashing and moving around in the water. They also have small jelly-filled holes on their body called the ampullae of Lorenzini. These little holes detect ELECTRICITY that is being emitted by other fish! How cool is that?

WORD BANK:

LATERAL LINE

FISH

1/4

TONIC IMMOBILITY




FILTER FEEDERS

NICTITATING MEMBRANE

ELECTRICITY

LOW

HEARING

Senses	<u>Humans</u>	<u>Sharks</u>
Smell	Example Smelling homemade cookies 	Example Shark smelling fish blood 
Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What do you see on a daily basis? - What you use your eyes for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use eyes to see prey -Have second eyelid for protection -Reflect light in the dark (just like cats!) 
Taste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We taste all kinds of different foods -What food do you taste? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sharks eat fish, crustaceans, marine mammals -Sharks do NOT eat humans
Touch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What do you touch? -Do you play sports and touch basketballs, soccer balls, or tennis balls? -Do your other hobbies require touch? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharks are very sensitive to touch - -When turned upside down by scientists or by their predators they become temporarily paralyzed
Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What sounds do you hear? -Do you like music? -Can you play an instrument? -What tv shows do you like to listen to? Would they be the same if you couldn't hear the tv? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sharks hear very low pitched noises -These noises help them catch their prey -They do not have ears on the outside of their body