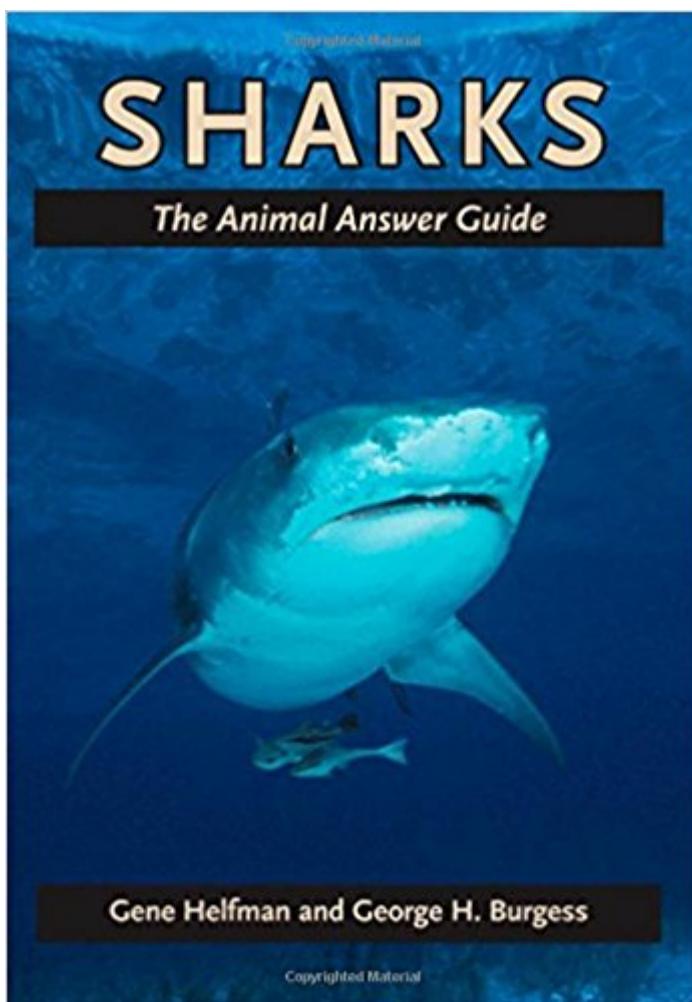


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# **Sharks: The Animal Answer Guide (The Animal Answer Guides: Q&A For The Curious Naturalist)**



## **Synopsis**

Answering every conceivable question about sharks, authors Gene Helfman and George H. Burgess describe the fascinating biology, behavior, diversity (there are more than 1,000 species worldwide), and cultural importance of sharks, their close relationship to skates and rays, and their critical role in healthy ecosystems. Helfman and Burgess take readers on a round-the-world tour of shark habitats, which include oceans as well as lakes and even rivers (as far up the Mississippi as St. Louis). They describe huge, ferocious predators like (Great) White and Tiger sharks and species such as Basking and Whale sharks that feed on microscopic prey yet can grow to lengths of more than 40 feet. The mysterious and powerful Greenland shark, the authors explain, reaches a weight of 2,200 pounds on a diet of seal flesh. Small (less than 2-foot long) Cookiecutter sharks attack other sharks and even take a chunk out of the occasional swimmer. Despite our natural fascination with sharks, we have become their worst enemy. Many shark species are in serious decline and a number are threatened with extinction as a result of overfishing and persecution. *Sharks: The Animal Answer Guide* presents a perfect mix of current science, history, anthropology, intriguing facts, and gripping photographs. Whether your fascination with sharks stems from fear or curiosity, your knowledge of these animals will improve immensely when you consult this book.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Whether you fear sharks or just have a curiosity about them, *Sharks: The Animal Answer Guide* will

home school you about these fascinating creatures that have been around for millions of years... Get a copy, you'll be glad you did." (Skip Clement Fly Life Magazine.com)"Why do sharks attack people? How often do attacks really occur? Must we really contemplate a visit to the beach with terror? Such questions come to mind as shark season approaches. Fortunately, the answer to these and many other shark questions can be found in *Sharks: The Animal Answer Guide.*" (Whit Gibbons Tuscaloosa News)"A wonderfully written and informative book that will be sure to excite and stimulate a new generation of shark biologists for years to come." (Philip Motta, University of South Florida)"A delightful, engaging, easy-to-read book introducing the cartilaginous fishes and covering their diversity, life histories, and special adaptations, with many fabulous illustrations. The chapters on 'sharks and humans' and 'sharkology' are balanced and refreshing. Helfman and Burgess have certainly done justice to this diverse, interesting, and intriguing group of fishes." (Gregor M. Cailliet, Professor Emeritus, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, and Director, Pacific Shark Research Center)"This book is sheer delight to read. The answers to every shark question imaginable are presented in wonderful depth. It's a great book for anyone interested in a factual and broadly informative guide to all things "sharky." I highly recommend it." (Adam P. Summers, Friday Harbor Laboratories, University of Washington)"I most highly encourage that all interested not only purchase and read *Sharks: The Animal Answer Guide* themselves but that additional consideration be given to presenting a copy as a gift to anyone with an interest in sharks... Ignorance and error are indeed a darkness of the mind for which the easiest correction is the introduction of light. To that end, this book veritably glows." (John E. Riutta The Well-read Naturalist)"*Sharks: The Animal Answer Guide* is captivating without being too light, and includes all shark facts. The result is a lovely survey recommended for any interested in sharks." (James A Cox The Midwest Book Review)"Johns Hopkins University Press has produced many fantastic 'animal answer guide' books on a wide range of animals, including geckos, turtles, and porcupines. Now comes *Sharks* -- and it may be the best of the bunch... [The] books is witty and clear, and should inspire a wide audience, young and old and laypersons and professionals... This is exactly the kind of book this reviewer would love to give to a child interested in studying sharks or marine biology." (Choice)"Underpinning a well-written and accurate book, what makes *Sharks: The Animal Answer Guide* so enjoyable was the palpable enthusiasm exhibited by both authors... *Sharks: The Animal Answer Guide* is written with a contagious passion that will undoubtedly inspire the public of our generation to learn about, protect, and conserve these magnificent denizens of the deep." (J. Marcus Drymon Bulletin of Marine Science)

Gene Helfman is a professor emeritus at the Odum School of Ecology's Program in Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development, University of Georgia. He is co-author of *Fishes: The Animal Answer Guide*, also published by Johns Hopkins. George H. Burgess is coordinator of museum operations and director of the Florida Program for Shark Research at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Great book. Lots of excellent information.

Great book, timely delivery.

*Sharks: The Animal Answer Guide* is a thoroughly presented, exhaustively researched, one-stop information guide for any question a person may ever have about sharks. This isn't a light and airy book for kids that talks down to them about the animal with bright images and graphics; rather, this is intended as a reference and resource for all ages to seriously address the shark species and have at fingertips everything that is currently known about the animal. The book is text heavy interspersed with B&W images as needed. The book is broken down by type of question. Section 1 one answers general questions about sharks, skates, rays, and chimaeras. Section 2 is full of questions about form and functions of sharks. Section 3 is about shark colors. Section 4 is for shark behavior questions. Section 5 is about ecology. Section 6 is reproduction and development. Section 7 is about shark food and feeding. Section 8 is about sharks and their interactions with humans. Section 9 is about shark problems. And section 10 is about human problems in how they deal with sharks. The authors clearly have a great love for the animal and that comes through in the exhaustively researched knowledge of sharks. This is a great book for the budding marine biologist or older child either afraid of or fascinated by sharks to help them understand the animal and take it out of the realm of superstition or legend. As well, I enjoyed sharing several of the questions with my daughter to get her thinking about sea animals and to understand the species. This is also a great book for anyone fascinated by sharks and wanting to know more as well. The afterward by the authors really explain the motivation to write the book as well as its usefulness: "Together, we have reflected on how great it would have been to have found a book such as this one when our fascination with sharks was new." My kudos to the authors for a fascinating reference book long overdue. Received as an ARC from the publisher.

For those of us who grew up with *Jaws* as our introduction to sharks, this book will make you want

to go out in the water again. It's full of colorful, pedestrian friendly scientific elements for the armchair naturalist, scientist or inquisitive mind of any age. Some fascinating random facts will show how sharks influenced competitive swimsuit design, what wetsuits are least attractive to sharks, and how to improve your keel design next time you design the next America's Cup. Sorry New Zealand - you didn't get the Cup this year, but you still have some amazing sharks in your waters! And Dr. Gene will guide you through every part of this amazing creature. Stephanie Buffum, MURP/MPA, MOM Executive Director, Friends of the San Juans, located in the Salish Sea, USA

As a scientist, I was thrilled to see that Helfman and Burgess' book *Sharks: The Animal Answer Guide*, was packed full of the most current data on sharks and their relatives. As an avid reader and communicator on ocean issues, I was equally thrilled to find that the book was not only easy to read, but fun to read as well. I've already sent copies to all of my shark-loving friends and will continue to share the book widely. I couldn't recommend it more highly.

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