



SHARK SUPER POWERS!

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BULL SHARK

(Carcharhinus leucas)

Most sharks live in saltwater, but bull sharks can survive in brackish and freshwater as well. They are able to osmoregulate, which allows their body to adapt to less salt in the water. Bull sharks have been found over 621 miles (1000 kilometers) up a freshwater river.



GREAT HAMMERHEAD

(Sphyrna mokarran)

Their odd shaped head and the location of their eyes actually helps them have super-powered vision. Not only can they see from side to side, but also above, below, in front and behind.



GREAT WHITE

(Carcharodon carcharias)

Great white sharks are another super athlete, migrating thousands of miles and able to perform some amazing aerial acrobatics. Like their relative the shortfin mako shark, they have the ability to keep their body warmer than the water around them, so their muscles are charged up and ready for bursts of speed, enabling them to rocket out of the water.



PRICKLY DOGFISH

(Oxynotus bruniensis) Credit Brit Finucci

Shark skin is covered in very tiny v-shaped scales called dermal denticles. These 'skin teeth' reduce drag, making it easier for sharks to swim. The prickly dogfish has very large dermal denticles, which are visible to the human eye. They make the shark appear similar to an underwater hedgehog.



SWELL SHARK

(Cephaloscyllium ventriosum) Credit David Gruber

These sharks are able to glow thanks to a special protein in their skin. This protein glows neon green when activated by blue light. The human eye cannot see this, but other swell sharks can. Scientists use special cameras to capture images of their fascinating glowing ability. This glow is like a secret handshake, only seen by other sharks with a similar type of vision!



SHORTFIN MAKO

(Isurus oxyrinchus) Credit Ron Watkins

These athletes are believed to be the fastest species of shark, swimming at estimated bursts of 45-60 miles-per-hour (72-96 kilometres-per-hour). Along with a torpedo shaped body, they have a specialised blood vessel structure that keeps their muscles warmed up and ready to chase their fast food (tuna and mackerel).



NURSE SHARK

(Ginglymostoma cirratum)

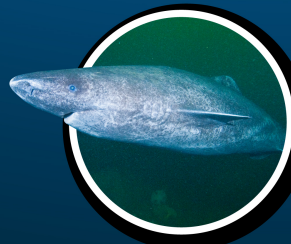
Nurse sharks have incredible suction power with some of the fastest jaws in the shark world. This suction has been said to be equal to that of ten vacuum cleaners. They can even suck a conch (a large snail) out of the shell.



TIGER SHARK

(Galeocerdo cuvier)

Tiger sharks are often called 'garbage cans' of the sea because they are not picky eaters. They've been found with random man-made items in their stomachs, including number plates and even a suit of armour. Parts such as bones, turtle shells and feathers are not easily digestible, so they throw up their own stomach to clean it out, leaving room for the next tasty treat.



GREENLAND SHARK

(Somniosus microcephalus) Credit Andy Murch

These slow-moving sharks are definitely not Olympic swimmers, but they will outlive all their other competitors. Scientists studied their eyes and used radiocarbon dating to determine they can live at least 272 years, with one shark being almost 400 years old. They become adults at 150 years of age!