

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Shark Smarts

**DECIDE WHICH WORD** from the glossary best completes the sentences below. Write the correct word in the blank. Each glossary word is used only once.

## Glossary

**carnivores:** animals who eat meat

**cartilage:** light, tough, flexible material that forms or connects parts of the skeleton

**endangered:** threatened with extinction

**gills:** organs of a fish's body that absorb oxygen from water

**malign:** to speak evil, often untrue statements about someone

**predators:** animals who hunt other animals for food

**prey:** animals who are hunted by other animals for food

**pups:** baby animals, such as baby sharks, seals, or dogs

**species:** a group of animals whose members share the same characteristics; members of one species are different in some ways from members of another species—for example, polar bears are different from grizzly bears

**surface:** the top or uppermost part of something

- 1 Sharks are fish. There are many kinds of sharks; in fact, more than 400 \_\_\_\_\_ live in the world's oceans and rivers. They range in size from 6 inches to more than 50 feet long. Some swim in shallow water, near the \_\_\_\_\_. Others live deep below.
- 2 Sharks breathe through their \_\_\_\_\_. Some have to keep moving in order to breathe. Unlike most fish, sharks don't have bones. Their skeletons are made of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Shark babies are called \_\_\_\_\_. As soon as they're born, the pups are on their own. And they better skedaddle quickly—or mom might eat them! All sharks are \_\_\_\_\_. Fish and seals are their favorite meals.
- 4 Sharks are apex \_\_\_\_\_. That means they are animals at the top of their food chain. They have no other natural predators in their ecosystem.
- 5 Some people \_\_\_\_\_ sharks. They think or speak poorly of them. One reason is that they are often portrayed as monsters in books and movies. As a result, people don't feel sorry for them or worry about them becoming \_\_\_\_\_. They don't understand how important they are to our environment. And they don't realize what could happen to oceans and ocean animals if sharks disappeared.