

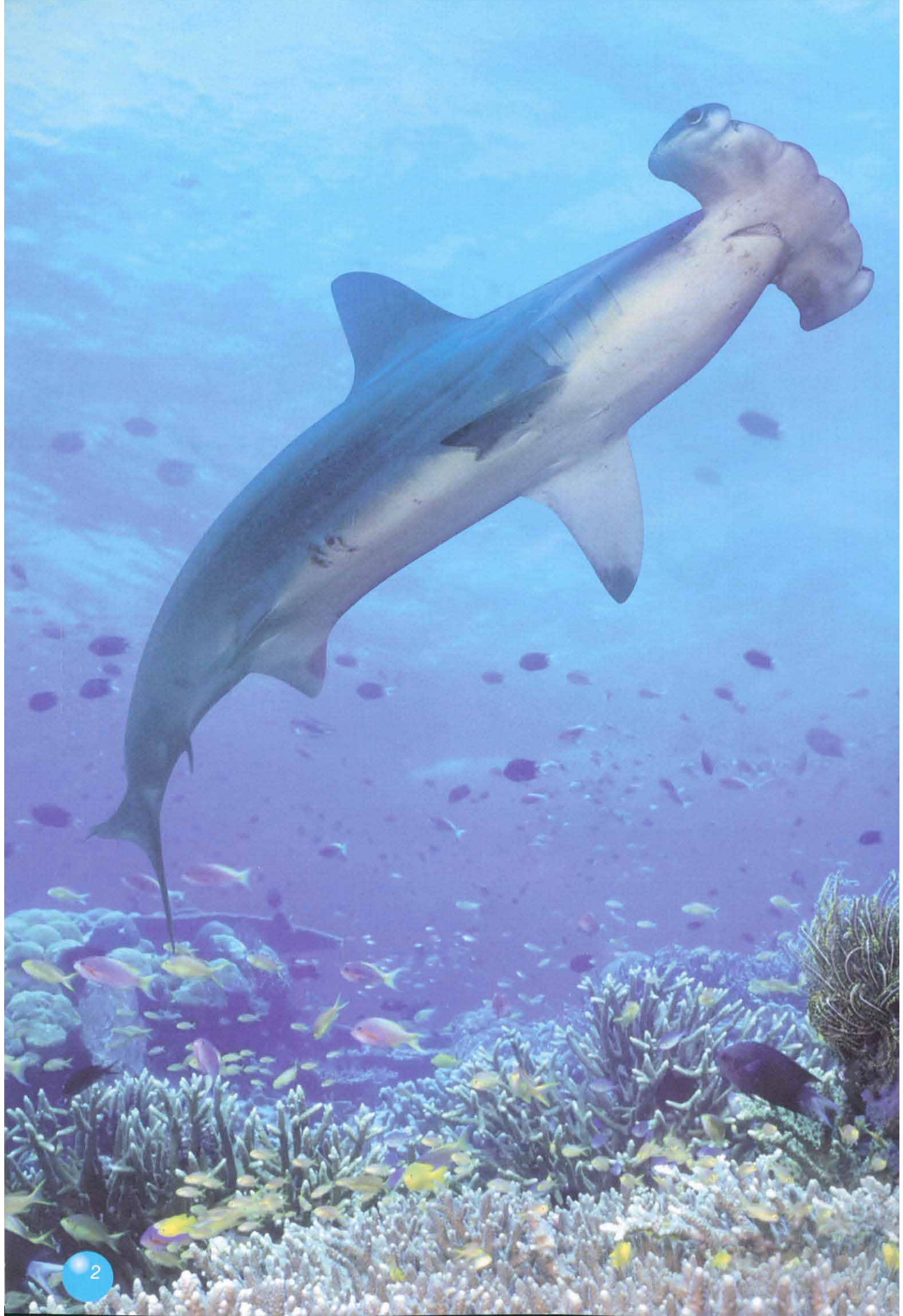


# THE HAMMERHEAD Shark

Virginia Evans  
Jenny Dooley



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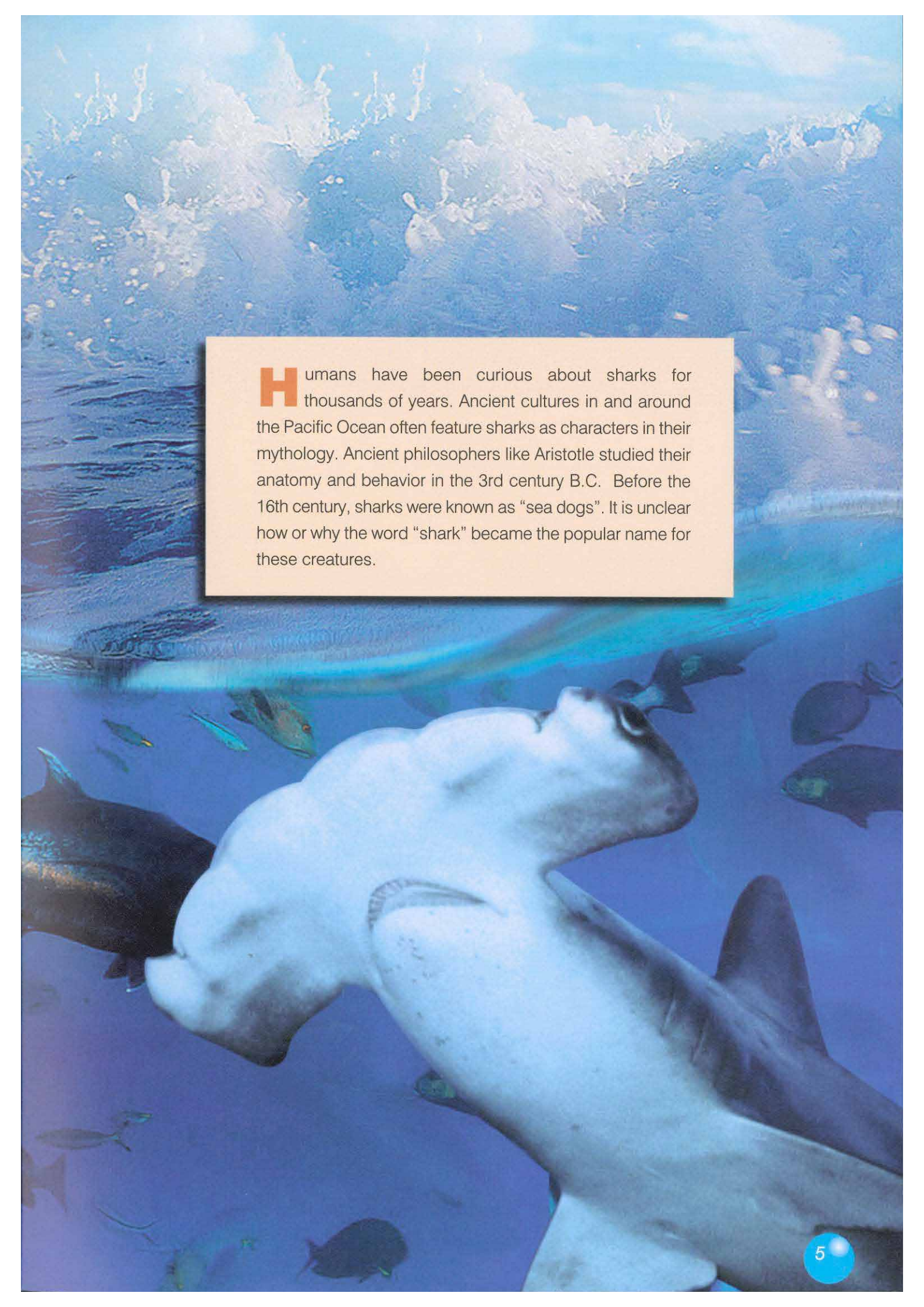


# Sharks



**S**hark teeth and other fossils left behind by ancient sharks suggest that the first sharks appeared around 420 million years ago. If this is true, then sharks existed before animals, and maybe even plants, moved out of the ocean and onto dry land. Despite the fact that they may have been around for nearly half of a billion years, sharks have not changed much. They have evolved into different shapes and sizes, but many of the traits of current sharks have probably existed for hundreds of millions of years.





**H**umans have been curious about sharks for thousands of years. Ancient cultures in and around the Pacific Ocean often feature sharks as characters in their mythology. Ancient philosophers like Aristotle studied their anatomy and behavior in the 3rd century B.C. Before the 16th century, sharks were known as “sea dogs”. It is unclear how or why the word “shark” became the popular name for these creatures.

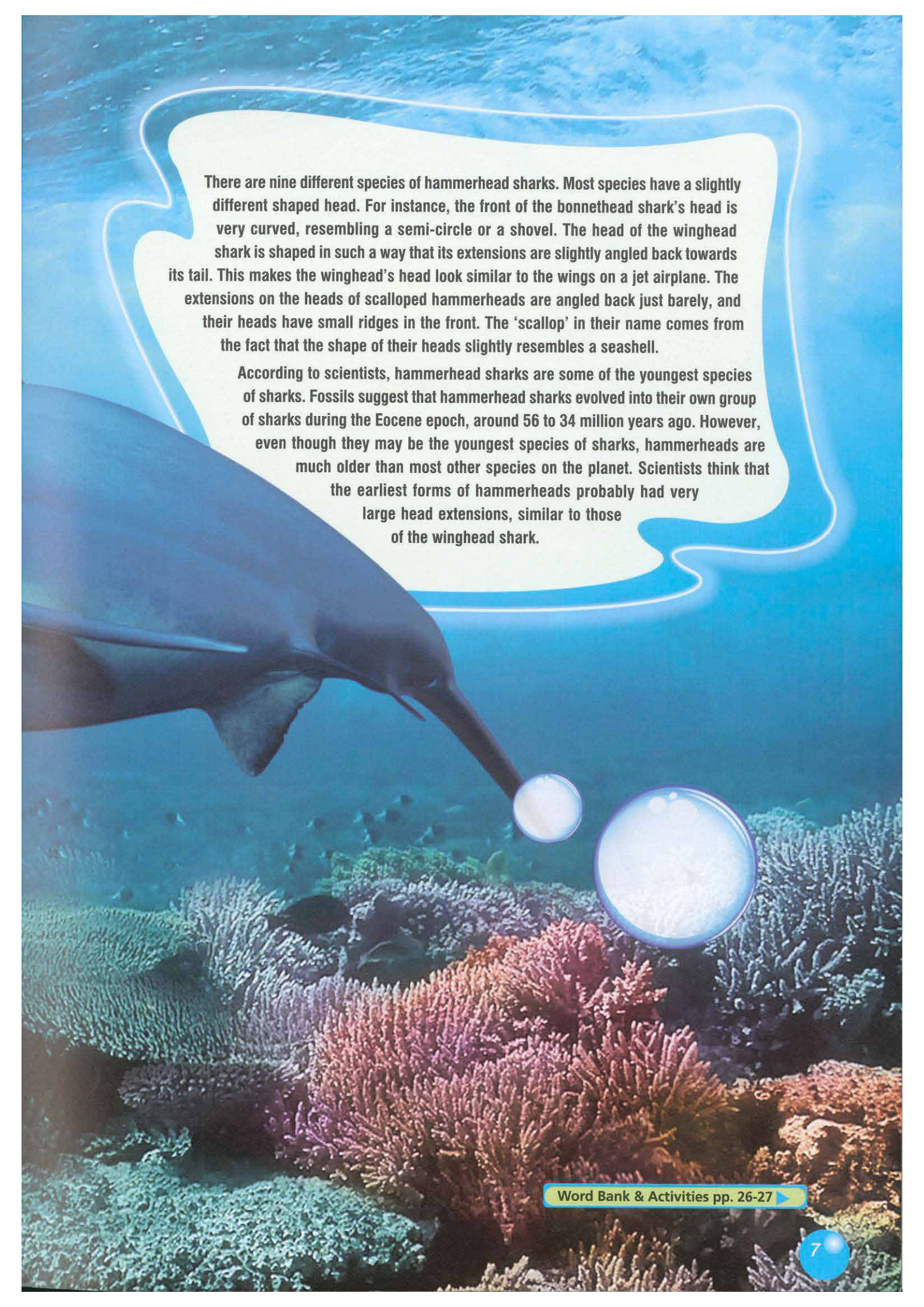


A hammerhead shark is shown swimming in clear blue water above a coral reef. The shark's head is the central focus, with its distinctive T-shaped extension clearly visible. The background shows a vibrant underwater scene with various coral species and small fish.

# The Hammerhead Shark

**H**ammerheads are a group of a few different species of sharks. The thing that all hammerheads have in common, and what they owe their name to, is the odd shape of their heads, which extend left and right, resembling a hammer. Because of the strange shapes of their heads, hammerhead sharks have slightly different ways of sensing the world than other creatures. This is mainly due to the fact that hammerheads' eyes and nostrils are at the ends of their head extensions.





There are nine different species of hammerhead sharks. Most species have a slightly different shaped head. For instance, the front of the bonnethead shark's head is very curved, resembling a semi-circle or a shovel. The head of the winghead shark is shaped in such a way that its extensions are slightly angled back towards its tail. This makes the winghead's head look similar to the wings on a jet airplane. The extensions on the heads of scalloped hammerheads are angled back just barely, and their heads have small ridges in the front. The 'scallop' in their name comes from the fact that the shape of their heads slightly resembles a seashell.

According to scientists, hammerhead sharks are some of the youngest species of sharks. Fossils suggest that hammerhead sharks evolved into their own group of sharks during the Eocene epoch, around 56 to 34 million years ago. However, even though they may be the youngest species of sharks, hammerheads are much older than most other species on the planet. Scientists think that the earliest forms of hammerheads probably had very large head extensions, similar to those of the winghead shark.



# Sharks/The Hammerhead Shark

## Word Bank (pp. 4-7)

**fossil** (n) = a very old plant or animal preserved in rock

**ancient** (adj) = thousands of years old

**evolve** (v) = to change gradually from a simple to a more advanced form; develop

**trait** (n) = characteristic

**current** (adj) = of the present

**culture** (n) = the way of life and beliefs shared by a particular society

**feature** (v) = to include

**mythology** (n) = set of myths

**anatomy** (n) = the scientific study of the body

**species** (n) = type, kind

**have sth in common** (phr) = to be similar

**owe (to)** (v) = to have sth because of sb or sth else

**odd** (adj) = unusual, strange

**extend** (v) = to stretch or continue over a particular distance

**resemble** (v) = to look like

**sense** (v) = to feel, to understand

**due to** (prep) = because of

**nostril** (n) = one of the two openings at the end of the nose through which you breathe and smell

**extension** (n) = sth stretching or continuing over a distance

**curved** (adj) = round shaped; not straight

**semi-circle** (n) = half a circle

**shovel** (n) = a tool used for digging

**angle** (v) = to move sth in a position that is not straight or upright

**barely** (adv) = hardly

**ridge** (n) = a long, thin raised line

**scallop** (n) = a small sea creature that lives inside a shell made of two parts

## Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Which of the following sentences about sharks are *T* (true) and which are *F* (false)?

- 1 Shark fossils are proof of sharks' old origin. ....
- 2 Current sharks are considerably different from ancient sharks. ....
- 3 Man has always been interested in sharks. ....
- 4 Hammerheads owe their name to the odd shape of their bodies. ....
- 5 The winghead shark's head resembles a bird's wings. ....
- 6 Hammerhead sharks are some of the youngest species on the planet. ....

b)  Listen, read and check.

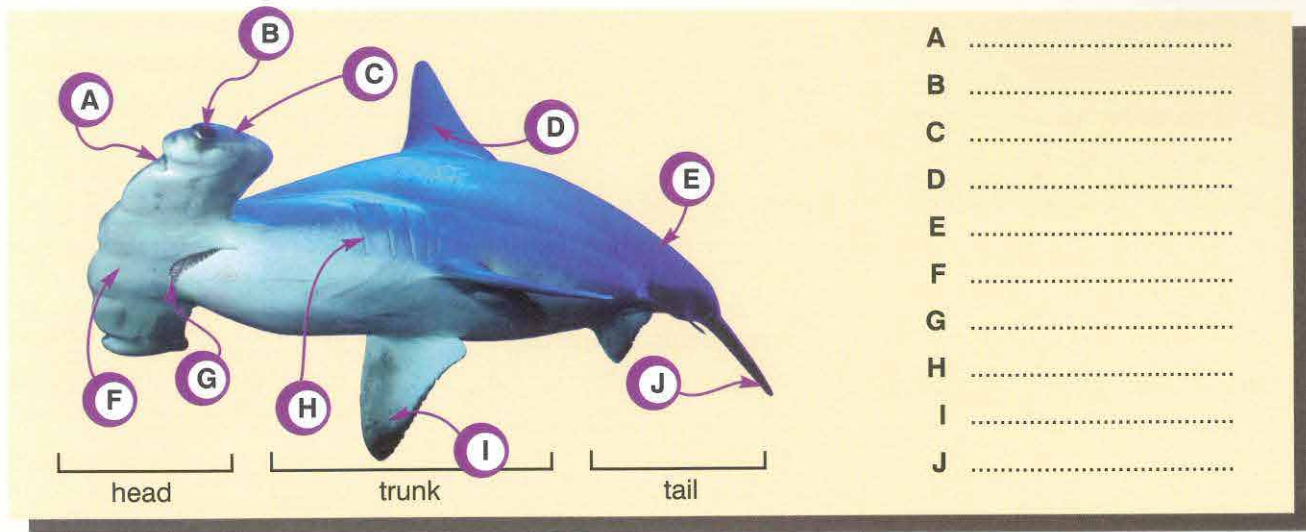
## While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and choose the correct option.

- 1 The first sharks appeared
  - A nearly half of a billion years ago.
  - B around half of a million years ago.
- 2 Although sharks have existed for a long time,
  - A their traits haven't changed significantly.
  - B their shapes and sizes are no different today.
- 3 For thousands of years, humans have been
  - A trying to discover the origin of sharks' name.
  - B fascinated by sharks.
- 4 Hammerheads' senses are affected by
  - A the position of their eyes and nostrils.
  - B the size of their heads.
- 5 Most species of hammerheads have
  - A slightly angled head extensions.
  - B slightly different heads.
- 6 Hammerhead sharks are
  - A much older than other shark species.
  - B a young shark species.



- 3 **SCIENTIFIC VOCABULARY:** Match the words to the letters in the diagram: *nostril, snout, eye, gills, pectoral fin, mouth, spiracle, first dorsal fin, caudal fin, second dorsal fin.*



- A .....
- B .....
- C .....
- D .....
- E .....
- F .....
- G .....
- H .....
- I .....
- J .....

- 4 **Complete the fact file with the following words:** *angled, feature, curved, evolved, common, fossils, ridges, traits.*

- 1 Throughout the years, sharks have ..... into different shapes and sizes.
- 2 The odd shapes of their heads are what hammerheads have in .....
- 3 Some species of hammerheads have slightly ..... extensions.
- 4 Many of the ..... of current sharks have probably existed for hundreds of millions of years.
- 5 Scalloped hammerheads' heads have small ..... in the front.
- 6 Ancient cultures ..... sharks in their mythology.
- 7 The front of the bonnethead shark's head is very .....
- 8 Shark teeth and other ..... confirm sharks' long existence.

- 5 **Choose the correct option.**

Why does the author relate sharks to ancient cultures and philosophers?

- A To explain where sharks took their name from.
- B To show sharks have been a subject of interest since antiquity.
- C To prove how advanced ancient civilizations were.
- D To make a contrast between ancient times and the modern era.

**After-Reading activities**

- 6 a) **Complete the table with these words:** *slightly angled, back towards tail, curved, ridges, semi-circle, angled back, shovel.*

<b>Bonnethead shark's head:</b>
<b>Winghead shark's head:</b>
<b>Scalloped shark's head:</b>

- b) Use the completed table to explain how each shark's head differs from each other.