

STUDENT BOOK H

FOCUS on

UNDERSTANDING MAIN
IDEA AND DETAILS



HAWKER BROWNLOW
EDUCATION

NAME _____

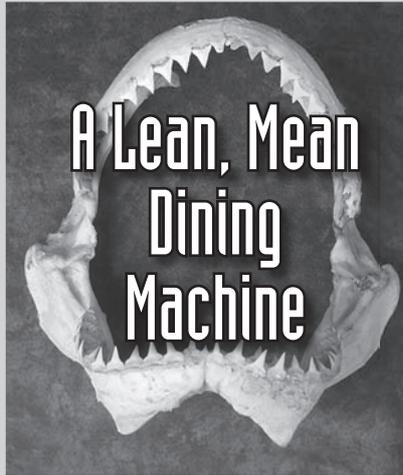
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Lesson

Preview

Read this sample passage about great white sharks. As you read, think about the main idea of the passage. Also think about what the details tell about the main idea.



As the largest fish predator in the ocean, the great white can eat just about anything it wants. Its body is designed to help it get what it wants to eat, which is mostly sea mammals such as seals and sea lions.

Like all sharks, great white sharks have a very good sense of smell. From as far away as a half a kilometre, sharks have been known to get a scent of blood in the water, which can lead them to a wounded animal that will provide an easy meal. Great whites may also be able to smell things through the air because of an unusual ability they have. They are the only sharks that can hold their head up out of the water, which may help the sharks smell colonies of the sea mammals they favour as food.

Once a great white shark has located and secured its prey, then its teeth go into action. The 24 teeth in the bottom jaw hold the prey in place while the 26 top teeth tear off chunks of food, which the shark swallows whole. The teeth are designed for the greatest efficiency, being pointed and having jagged edges, and what is even more impressive is that they never have to worry about losing a tooth. Behind the front row are rows of replacement teeth, so that whenever a shark loses a tooth, a spare one moves to the front.

Yes, great white sharks are lean, mean dining machines, but they're definitely not greedy. Often two months pass between a great white's meals.



1. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?

- Ⓐ The body of the great white shark is designed to help it get what it wants to eat.
- Ⓑ Great white sharks can lift their head out of water.
- Ⓒ The teeth of a great white shark help it capture and eat its prey.
- Ⓓ Great white sharks have a very good sense of smell.

2. How do the bottom teeth of a great white shark help it eat?

- Ⓐ They tear chunks of food.
- Ⓑ They hold the prey in place.
- Ⓒ They chew the food.
- Ⓓ They replace upper teeth that are lost.

Look at the answer choices for each question. Read why each answer choice is correct or not correct.

1. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?

- Ⓐ The body of the great white shark is designed to help it get what it wants to eat.

This answer is not correct because it is not what the second paragraph is mostly about. It is the main idea of the whole passage, but it is not the main idea of the second paragraph.

- Ⓑ Great white sharks can lift their head out of water.

This answer is not correct because it is a detail in the second paragraph that tells about an unusual aspect of the shark's sense of smell.

- Ⓒ The teeth of a great white shark help it capture and eat its prey.

This answer is not correct because it is the main idea of the third paragraph, which tells about the shark's teeth. The second paragraph is not about the shark's teeth.

- Great white sharks have a very good sense of smell.

This answer is correct because the second paragraph is mostly about the shark's sense of smell. All of the details in the second paragraph tell about the shark's sense of smell.

2. How do the bottom teeth of a great white shark help it eat?

- Ⓐ They tear chunks of food.

This answer is not correct because the third paragraph states that the 26 top teeth tear off chunks of food.

- They hold the prey in place.

This answer is correct because the second sentence of the third paragraph states that the 24 teeth in the bottom jaw hold the prey in place.

- Ⓒ They chew the food.

This answer is not correct because the third paragraph states that the shark swallows the chunks of food whole. Therefore, the food is not chewed.

- Ⓓ They replace upper teeth that are lost.

This answer is not correct because the last sentence in the third paragraph states that replacement teeth are located behind the front row of teeth. Therefore, bottom teeth could not replace upper teeth.