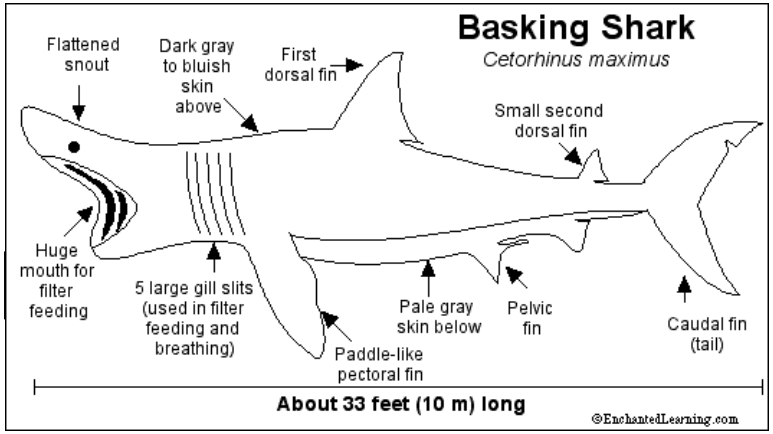
Sharks

Sharks are hugely important in our oceans and rivers. There are about 350 types of shark; they include some of the largest fish. Often, these unique creatures are misunderstood and are seen as terrifying because of television and films.



Body parts

Sharks have rough skin and they cannot fold their fins. All sharks have strong jaws (mouths) and many have sharp teeth, but some have flat grinding teeth. This is all dependent on the **diet** they eat.



Why do hammerhead sharks have a funny shaped head?

There are a variety of thoughts about why hammerhead sharks have unusually shaped heads. Some experts think it is to help the shark move through the water. Others believe it helps their sense of smell – most hammerheads have nostrils on the outer tips of their heads.

How do great whites find their food?

When the great white shark is close to another animal, it can sense **electrical currents** made by the animal's body. When they are further away, it has a powerful sense of smell that can track the **scent** of fish from a great distance. Great whites have tremendously good eyesight. Underwater, they can see well in the dark and have an excellent sense of



Carcharodon carcharias or Great White Shark

Which is the fastest shark?

The short-finned Mako shark is the fastest shark. It is very **streamlined** and **agile**. Incredibly, it is thought by some that it can travel up to 70 miles per hour. It eats other fish such as tuna, which are also some of the fastest swimming fish.

Did you know...

- Whale sharks can grow over 14 metres in length.
- The world's largest fish is the whale shark.
- The longest known Great White is 6 metres.

The Lebanese Civil War

On 13 April 1975, the Lebanese civil war broke out.
The conflict, which lasted 15 years and 6 months, cost 150,000 lives, injured 300,000, and led to the emigration of almost a million people, brought the Lebanese state to near collapse.

On the surface, the civil war erupted because the Phalangists, a Christian militia, clashed with Palestinian groups over the armed struggle against Israel from Lebanese territory. Lebanon was separated into different religious sections who wanted to run the country in their own way or have key parts of the land. But the conflict changed rapidly into a fight over the Lebanese state and its government.



Several countries intervened in the Lebanese civil war. Syria was the first from 1976 until 2005, mostly in the country's east with 20,000-40,000 troops present over the years. In 1978, Israel's invasion led to the deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). This force is still there today.



The Green Line was a line of separation in Beirut, Lebanon, during the Lebanese Civil War from 1975 to 1990. It separated the mainly Muslim factions in the mostly Muslim West Beirut from the mostly Christian East Beirut controlled by the Lebanese Front.

However, as the Civil War continued, it also came to separate Sunni from Shia Muslim groups.



At the beginning of the Civil War, the division was not absolute as some Muslims lived East of the Green Line and some Christians lived in West Beirut; but, as the Civil War continued, minorities left the sector they were in. The name "The Green Line" refers to the colour of the foliage (plant life) that grew because the space was uninhabited. While most commonly referred to as the "Green Line", it was also sometimes called the "Demarcation Line". It generally stretched from the North of Beirut to the South, and the primary street that followed the Green Line was Damascus Street.

There was no formal line or continual security, but it was common to see militia checkpoints that people crossing at particular points had to go through and snipers on top of buildings were common. Many of the buildings along the Green Line were severely damaged or destroyed during the war.

Bringing a civil war to an end is difficult – in the Lebanese case, it took at least 12 attempts (smaller initiatives not included) to finally implement an agreement. Foreign countries became involved to end the fighting: Syria, Saudi Arabia, France, the US, the UN and the Arab League all attempted several times to bring the war to an end.

On May 17, 1983, a US-backed agreement was reached for making peace between Lebanon and Israel. The agreement failed when Syria refused to withdraw its forces.

The Taif Agreement was an agreement reached to provide "the basis for the ending of the civil war and the return to political normality in Lebanon". It was negotiated in Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, it was designed to end the decades-long Lebanese Civil War, re-introduce Lebanese authority in Southern Lebanon (then occupied by Israel) and set a time frame for Syrian troops to leave .It was signed on 22 October 1989 and approved by the Lebanese parliament on 5 November 1989

As a result of the conflict, economic losses were no less startling, estimated to have between US$8 and 12 billion.

Time of the Civil War

Why did it start?

How did it end?

‘The Green Line’

The impact of this civil war